

WALSALL FOR ALL

COVID Community Champions Project (Phase 2)

Fortnightly Briefing

Wednesday 26 January 2022



For the latest COVID-19 data in Walsall, click the link:
[Microsoft Power BI](#)

The government has announced that the measures put in place under plan B in England will be lifted.

You should continue to follow safer behaviours to protect yourself and others:

27 January , this guidance applies to ENGLAND

- You will not be required to wear a face covering, including in communal areas of schools, but the government suggests you continue to wear one in crowded and indoor spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- You'll no longer need to show your NHS COVID Pass at venues and events by law.

20 January , this guidance applies to ENGLAND

- Staff and pupils in secondary schools and colleges will not be required to wear a face covering in classrooms.

19 January , this guidance applies to ENGLAND

- You are no longer asked to work from home if you can. Talk to your employer to agree arrangements to return to your workplace.

Protect Yourself and others

Although the Plan B measures are being removed so the legal requirements are gone, we are urging Walsall residents to continue to be responsible and cautious at this time.

It is vital we reduce the number of residents testing positive. This will help to ease pressure in our NHS, schools, care homes and workplaces.

To help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Walsall you should follow safer behaviours and actions that include:

- Use face coverings in indoor and crowded places
- Wash your hands regularly
- let in fresh air for 10 minutes regularly whilst indoors
- Test regularly
- Stay at home when you feel unwell and book a PCR test
- Use the COVID-19 NHS App
- Get vaccinated and boosted

All of these things will help us to bring down the rate of COVID-19 in the borough for now and in the longer-term.



Protect Yourself and others

Symptom-free testing

To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, take a symptom-free test using a lateral flow test before:

- spending time in crowded indoor places
- meeting someone who is at higher risk of severe illness

Report your result and if positive, self-isolate immediately.
More information: <http://gov.uk/coronavirus>

Action

- Encourage your staff, volunteers, visitors to take a symptom-free test before they visit your building
- Share information about symptom-free testing across your available communication channels.

These are simple and straightforward to follow, they will help to slow the spread and can help save lives



Vaccination Update

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Update

There are a range of sites across Walsall offering walk-in and booked appointments - local GPs, pharmacies, community venues and large vaccination centres.

Visit the [vaccination page](#) on the CCG website for the latest information on eligibility and how and when people can get the vaccine.

If someone has had a positive COVID-19 test, they will need to wait before getting any dose of the vaccine. [Find out more.](#)

Those who are eligible for a vaccine can [book online](#) or attend a [walk-in site](#). Please note you need to be registered with a GP to use the online booking system. Those without a GP will need to attend a walk-in site.

Bookings can be made over the phone by dialling 119. Calls to 119 are free from mobiles and landlines. Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm. 119 provides support in 200 languages. If you need help from a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter, use the free online [119 BSL interpreter service from SignVideo](#)

Offer of vaccination is evergreen – if someone hasn't yet come forward for a vaccine and now wants it, they can still get vaccinated. Encourage them to book online or visit a walk-in site.

Vaccination Update (cont'd)

Vaccine Hesitancy

- [COVID-19 vaccine and women of childbearing age](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine and children & young people](#)
- [Flu and COVID-19 jab](#)

Don't underestimate COVID-19 says survivor Jo

Thursday 20 January 2022



"I was healthy with no underlying conditions and a strong woman – now I know what COVID-19 can do to you and I wouldn't wish it on anyone."

"I couldn't even tell you how many people I've seen die – it's unbearable to even think about it. At one point it was one person dying each shift, which is a lot of heartbreak."

Olivia Kane is an intensive care nurse who has seen dozens of COVID-19 deaths, and she urged people to have the vaccine because of the 'terrifying' scenes she has seen.

The 24-year-old has only worked on ICU at Walsall Manor Hospital for 12 months, but has witnessed many patients dying – and worryingly, most of those she is now seeing are younger and unvaccinated.

"It's absolutely terrifying because you easily relate it to your own family," said Olivia. "A lot of these patients thought they'd never get the virus, so it's just scary how quickly things can change, and how devastating it can be for everybody.

"We see the aftermath with the families, especially when the patients are ventilated and they can't talk. You see how the families react to their loved ones, with all the infusions, and how poorly they have gone – even over a couple of days, it's terrifying.

"These are often unvaccinated patients. It's the nastiness of the virus – people under-estimate how bad it can be."



Project Updates

Aaina Hub:

- Handing out leaflets to centre visitors.
- Ensuring everyone is aware of the latest guidance.
- Providing reassurance to the elderly.
- Continuing to have positive conversations about the vaccination.

Multi Kulti CIC:

- Confirming professionals that will speak about various matters and the impact the pandemic has had in an upcoming video.
- Continuing to share public health and CCG messages.
- Will be doing door-to-door distribution of COVID vaccination leaflets in Darlaston area on the weekend.

Youth Connect:

- Ongoing outreach work in the community to engage with young people in the Palfrey area and build trust to increase vaccination uptake and staying safe.

Project Updates

Union of Muslim Organisations

- Two successful clinics took place at Aisha Mosque in partnership with Larvic Pharmacy. Success was down to easy access of the clinic. Many worshippers were having their jabs while attending the mosque for prayers.
- Engaging with two local schools on vaccination uptake.

MindKind Projects

- Focusing on the wellbeing aspect by starting up sewing classes which is now at full capacity (they are looking at setting up further classes). This gives an opportunity to have conversations with mums about the vaccine, as well as staying healthy.
- Continuing to share steps to a healthy wellbeing, adding value to the projects.
- Following the visit to Larvic Pharmacy, conversations have been taking place for a potential pop-up clinic.

Vera Group

- Catch-ups have been taking place with community members, with social distancing and face coverings in place. Isolation, testing and boosters were discussed at these meetings.
- As an objective, the group will continue to make the community aware that the virus is still circulating even though restrictions have been lifted.
- Raising awareness of the vaccination sites and the opening times.
- Future work will take place with Eastern European communities in the coming weeks.