



West Lancs CVS is working alongside West Lancs Borough Council and our public sector partners to make sure that key coronavirus (COVID-19) facts and messages are available to all West Lancs residents via voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations.

Please join in these efforts to provide clear information to our community by cascading these messages to your networks, work colleagues, friends and families.

Vaccinations

How you will be contacted for your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination

The NHS will let you know when it's your turn to have the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination but **you do not need to wait to be contacted** and can book direct now **if any of the following apply:**

- you are aged 50 or over
- you are at [high risk from coronavirus](#) (clinically extremely vulnerable)
- you are an eligible frontline health or social care worker
- you have a condition that puts you at higher risk (clinically vulnerable)
- you have a learning disability
- you are a main carer for someone at high risk from coronavirus

Book your coronavirus vaccination appointments online [here](#). Find more information [here](#)

Vaccine frequently asked questions

Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS) has a webpage with all the latest information on vaccinations and includes a very useful 'frequently asked questions' section: <https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/CovidVaccination>

Vaccines drive for those at risk

People with underlying conditions including cancer and diabetes are being encouraged to book for a Covid-19 vaccine by [leading UK health charities in an open letter published 14 March](#).

GP services have already been contacting this cohort but **those who have not yet received a letter can get a quick and convenient appointment at a vaccination centre or community pharmacy by using the national booking system or calling 119.** The NHS have sent text messages to people in this group with a link so they can book their appointment.

COVID-19 vaccines and fertility

There is no evidence of that the vaccine affects fertility and the British Fertility Society has produced [this resource](#). Further reassurance is provided in this [joint statement](#) from the Royal Colleges of Midwives, Obstetrics and Gynaecology. See also videos from NHS GP [Dr Charles Esene](#) and Public Health England's [Dr Gayatri Amirthalingam](#).

Free picture stories to support people with learning disabilities and autism

'**Having a Vaccine for Coronavirus**' (illustrated by Lucy Bergonzi) is a wordless story to help people think about the coronavirus vaccine and what having the vaccine will mean. The pictures can help people to ask questions and talk through their feelings and concerns with a supporter so that they feel prepared when they receive their vaccine invitation.

Download this and other stories for free at: <https://booksbeyondwords.co.uk/coping-with-coronavirus>

Scams

The COVID-19 vaccine is **free of charge** on the NHS. The NHS will **never** ask for:

- your bank account or card details
- your pin or banking password
- copies of personal documents to prove your identity such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips

If you think you have been a victim of fraud or identify theft, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Information from West Lancs Borough Council

- Covid-19 data from the previous week across the borough, shows that the highest cases are within age groups 18-24 followed by 35-44. The wards most affected are:
 - Moorside
 - Tarleton
 - Hesketh-with-Becconsall

- There have been a number of advancements in the testing programme. Children in secondary school or college will now be required to have twice weekly testing at home and [can order kits through the local testing sites](#).
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Other useful information

Testing - free rapid tests available for regular workplace testing

Free Covid-19 lateral tests are now allowed for employers **including those with less than 50 employees**. Organisations must sign up before **31 March** to access this offer which will be in place until the end of June. **Free lateral tests are open to volunteers**.

Find out more [here](#) and apply [here](#).

Shielding - advice for the clinically extremely vulnerable to stop shielding from 1 April

Clinically extremely vulnerable people are advised to cease shielding from **Thursday 1 April**, as virus infection rates continue to fall. People on the shielded patient list will receive letters from 18 March 2021 with updated guidance on steps people can take to reduce their risk.

More information [here](#).