



COVID 19 updates and information from the council and councillors for December 12th

The Government has introduced some new measures for England following the rising spread of the Omicron variant in the UK.

This means:

- Face coverings are now compulsory in most public indoor venues, other than when eating, drinking or exercising
- Work from home if you can
- You may need to prove you've been fully vaccinated (you can do this by downloading the NHS App on your phone) or have had a recent negative test before you can go into some settings, such as nightclubs and settings with large crowds.

Let's keep protecting ourselves and each other by also regularly washing our hands, watching our distance and keeping spaces well ventilated.

It's important to get tested if you have any symptoms. Get a PCR test and isolate as soon as possible if you have any of these symptoms, even if mild:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

[Click here to read more on the latest government guidance](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

[Click here to get a PCR test sent to you if you have any symptoms of Covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)
<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>



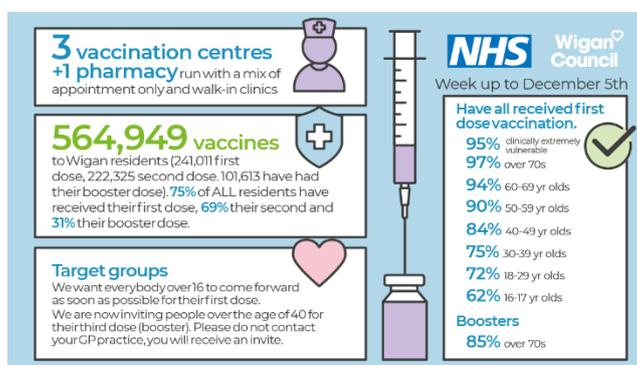
Local vaccination information

A fantastic 564,949 vaccinations have now been given to residents in the borough.

If you're aged 16+ and haven't had your first vaccine please come forward.

If you're aged 40+ you're now eligible for your booster and your GP will contact you with an appointment or you may be able to book an appointment online at one of the national vaccination centres.

[Click here to read more about vaccinations Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccines - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

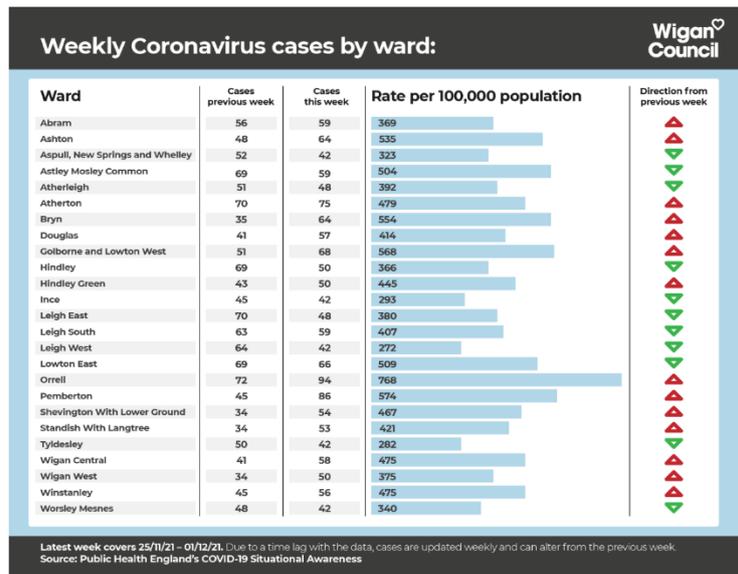


This week's Covid-19 tracker has been published

It shows:

- Wigan has the second highest rate of new cases in Greater Manchester (GM) for the latest complete week (27 November to 3 December).
- Wigan currently has the 4th highest total rate in GM.
- The rate of new cases in Wigan is higher than the previous week.
- Wigan is currently ranked 199th in England.
- The over-60s weekly incidence rate for Wigan is the highest of the 10 Greater Manchester areas.
- Wigan is higher than the Greater Manchester and the North-West average for rate of new cases in the latest 7 days.
- As at 7 December, there were 32 COVID-positive patients in Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh hospitals, an increase from this time last week.
- Cases have slightly reduced in Lowton East but risen again in Golborne and Lowton West

To read the full tracker, click here <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Crime-Emergencies/Coronavirus/Coronavirus-update-and-advice.aspx>



Support local this Christmas

Wigan and Leigh markets are open for business this Christmas and are ready to welcome customers over the festive period.

From delicious locally-sourced food and drink to gifts and cards, there is everything you need to complete your Christmas shopping.

The opening hours for both markets and more information about what's on offer can be found on their Facebook pages.

Click here to visit Wigan Market
<https://www.facebook.com/wiganmarket>

Click here to visit Leigh Market <https://www.facebook.com/LeighMarket/>



Make sure you get home safely

As we head into the festive season to celebrate with friends, family, and colleagues, it is more important than ever to be mindful of yours and others' safety.

Drink and drug driving increases over the Christmas period as people head out to socialise and attend gatherings, with December seeing the third highest number of 'driver impaired' collisions.

Everyone is encouraged to plan ahead and consider using public transport, taxis, or private hire vehicles travelling to and from a Christmas party or night out this Winter.

Enforcement from GMP will be in place, such as roadside checks and breathalysers, to protect people from the potentially fatal consequences of driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

[Click here to find out more https://news.tfgm.com/news/drink-driv](https://news.tfgm.com/news/drink-driv)



Join our leisure centres for £1 – offer extended!

The join for £1 offer has been extended until December 15, so don't miss out!

What's included in your membership?

- Gym, Swim and Classes
- Sauna and Steam
- All Back to Sport Sessions
- Live and On-Demand Content on our app

[Click here to read more and join https://www.wigan.gov.uk/BeWell/Membership/Membership-benefits.aspx](https://www.wigan.gov.uk/BeWell/Membership/Membership-benefits.aspx)

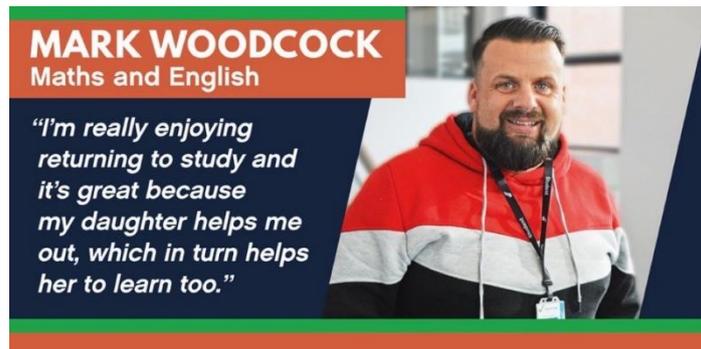


Learning opportunities for adults

There are lots of new courses for adults starting at Wigan and Leigh College in January.

It's never too late in life to think about your future, so if there's something you've always wanted to do, whether it's learning a new skill, or starting on a journey towards a new career, 2022 could be the year for you.

[Click here to see the range of courses on offer](https://www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/adult-courses/prospectus-adult)
<https://www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/adult-courses/prospectus-adult>



Golborne Parkside Craft Fayre

It was good to go along and support the Craft Fayre at Golborne Parkside Sports Centre yesterday. Stall holders were selling good quality gifts and produce.



Best Wishes

Councillor Gena Merrett
Councillor Yvonne Klieve
Councillor Susan Gambles

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