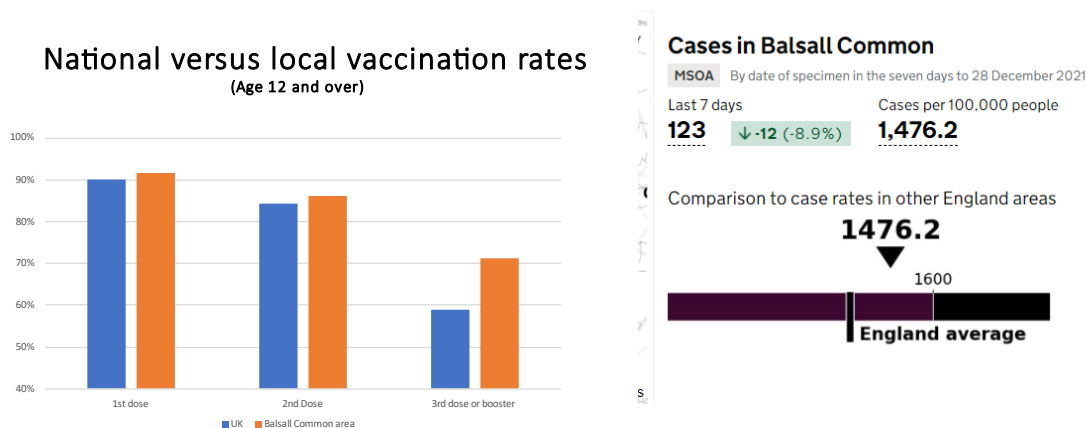


Coronavirus update

1. The Statistics

The Balsall Common area has consistently moved faster in getting vaccinated but suffers the same problem as the UK as a whole with about 10% of the population not having received a single vaccine.



Data source : <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk> 3 January 2022

Like all covid vaccinations, the booster takes a few weeks to reach maximum effectiveness, so those who got their jabs in late December will not achieve maximum protection until mid-late January.

2. Key things to do

Whilst the omicron version of the virus has less severe effects on average, given the ease of transmission, it is possible to overwhelm the NHS. So we are asked

- All adults (except those medically advised not to) should have 3 jabs and should book now to get any covid vaccinations they have not had [Book a jab](#).
- The **Secretary of State for Education** stated on the BBC Today programme that vaccination rates in the 12 to 18 age group were significantly below the UK average and urged parents to book an appointment online. 12 to 15 years olds should have two jabs and 16 to 18 year old should have the booster after 3 months/when called. [Book a jab](#).
- All school pupils will be required to wear masks when inside the school buildings and should take lateral flow tests on return to school and twice per week. The Secretary of State for Education said that the tests would be provided to the schools via a dedicated route to ensure consistent supplies. More details [here](#)
- Where possible you should work from home. Employers should have in place suitable and sufficient protection mechanisms for those who have to attend work (as many will)
- If you are meeting socially, the whole party should take lateral flow tests before they go, to protect others. It is estimated that about 1/3rd of those with the virus have no symptoms.
- Wear masks in most public indoor spaces – the key exception is when eating/drinking.
- Ventilate rooms where people from different households meet. The recommendation is open windows for 10 minutes on a regular basis.

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