

Coronavirus Update 13th October 2020 – COVID-19 Community Health Champions

As the pandemic continues, it is important that key messages get out to all communities across the city. As volunteers in the COVID-19 Community Champions Network, you are important, valued and trusted members of the community who are perfectly placed to share these key messages with as many people as possible. You can also play a key role in helping to counter unhelpful and sometimes dangerous misinformation. **Do let us know if there is anything your communities need to know about COVID-19.**

We appreciate it can be difficult to take on board all the different messages and data you hear and read about COVID-19. This week we wanted to update you on the new COVID-19 restrictions and remind you of two of the most effective ways of preventing the spread of COVID-19:

1. **New COVID-19 restrictions**
2. **Hands, Face, Space**
3. **Self-isolation**

1. New COVID-19 Restrictions

National Government have introduced a three-tiered system of local COVID-19 Alert Levels in England: Medium, High and Very High. The Prime Minister has shared images summarising the restrictions at each level via Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/10DowningStreet/status/1315758837002010625?s=20>

For more information, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know#local-covid-alert-level-high>

[New Coronavirus restrictions have been announced for Birmingham residents](#) as a result of the government's new three-tier system. They will come into effect on **Wednesday 14 October**. The city has been placed in the '[alert level 2](#)' due to infection rates above 100 per 100,000 people. This means households will not be able to meet other households indoors (except with support bubbles) including indoor hospitality, leisure and retail. This is in addition to the national 'rule of six' and the local ban on meeting other households in private homes – though the rule of six will now apply to private gardens. The restrictions, which come into effect from midnight Tuesday 13 October (one minute past midnight Wednesday 14) mean that:

- Households will not be able to meet indoors (except with support bubbles) including indoor hospitality, leisure and retail. This is in addition to the national 'rule of six' and the local ban on meeting other households in private homes.
- The rule of six will now apply to private gardens.
- Weddings are permitted to have no more than 15 attendees with the same for receptions.
- Funerals can only have 30 attendees, with a maximum of 15 at wakes and commemorations.
- You can only play team sports where they are officially organised by a club or organisation.
- People are advised to minimise the number of journeys they make.
- While you can still go on holiday, it can only be with people you live with, or your support bubble.

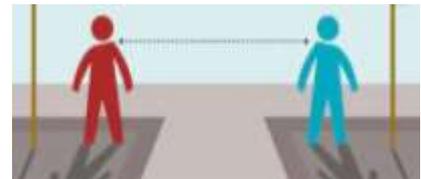
2. Hands, Face and Space

Washing your hands: While Coronavirus is not likely to survive for long periods of time on outdoor surfaces in sunlight, it can live for more than 24 hours in indoor environments. Washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer, regularly throughout the day will reduce the risk of catching or passing on the virus.



Covering your face: Coronavirus is carried in the air by tiny respiratory droplets that carry the virus. Larger droplets can land on other people or on surfaces they touch while smaller droplets, called aerosols, can stay in the air indoors for at least 5 minutes, and often much longer if there is no ventilation. Face coverings reduce the dispersion of these droplets, meaning if you're carrying the virus you're less likely to spread it when you exhale.

Making space: Transmission of the virus is most likely to happen within 2 metres, with risk increasing exponentially at shorter distances. While keeping this exact distance isn't always possible, remaining mindful of surroundings and continuing to make space has a powerful impact when it comes to containing the spread.



3. Self- isolation



HM Government NHS

GOT SYMPTOMS?
**SELF-ISOLATE
FOR 10 DAYS**

LIVE WITH SOMEONE
WITH SYMPTOMS?
**SELF-ISOLATE
FOR 14 DAYS**

Self-isolation means staying at home and avoiding contact with other people. In practical terms, this means that you must:

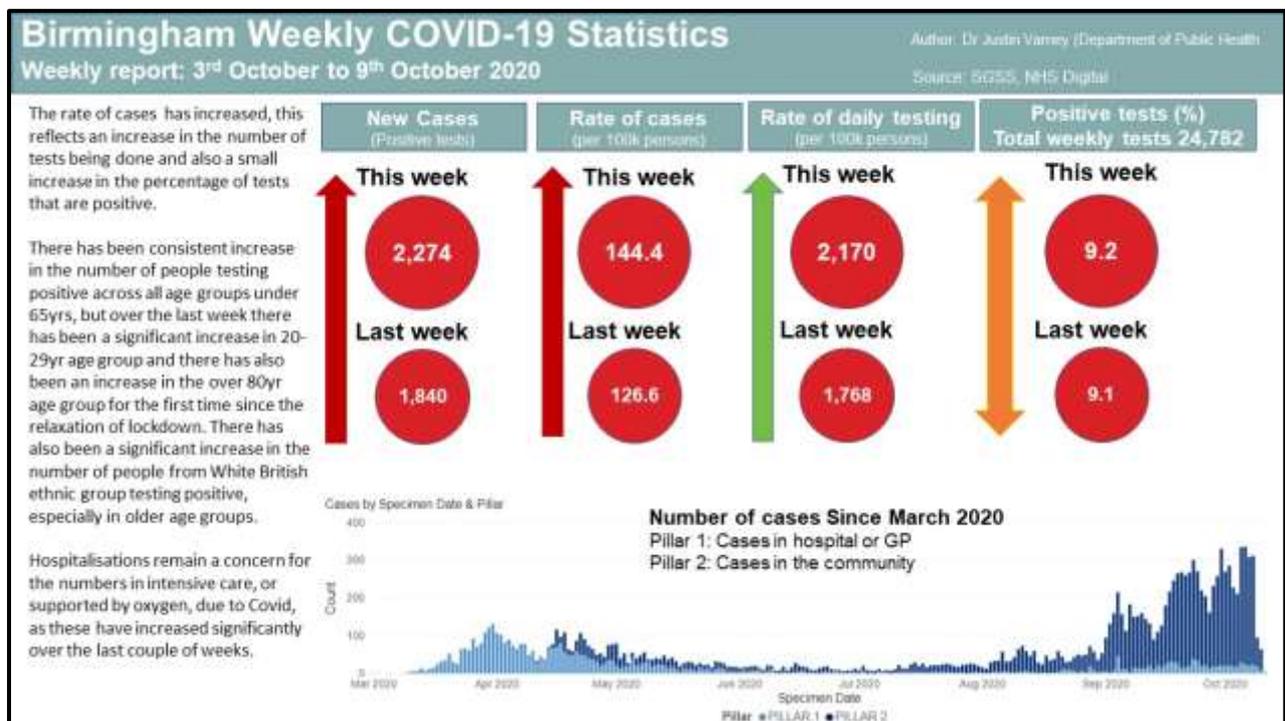
- Stay at home
- Not go to work, school or to public areas
- Not use public transport like buses, trains, tubes or taxis
- Avoid visitors to your home
- Ask friends, local family members or delivery services to carry out errands for you - such as getting groceries, medications or other shopping.

By self-isolating, you are not only protecting your community, you are also helping all those who may become very sick if they become infected and those key workers who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. It's an incredibly important and effective way of slowing the spread of COVID-19.

We now know that people can pass the virus on even when they don't have symptoms. If you leave home while you could be infectious, even if you feel fine, you could pass the virus onto other people, including people who are vulnerable to very serious illness. That's why it's especially important to self-isolate if you are told you are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19, regardless of whether you feel unwell or not.

Additional Local updates

Local data update (3rd – 9th October)



Drop and collect COVID -19 testing service

The RAF is supporting the Council's successful door-to-door [drop-and-collect COVID-19 testing service](#). Since the start of the pandemic, the Armed Forces has worked with colleagues across the government to increase national testing capacity and around 100 military personnel are now working with us.

Test and Trace support payments now live in Birmingham

A payment support scheme is now live to help residents who cannot work from home but need to self-isolate.

Residents on low incomes who have been advised to self-isolate for 14 days by the NHS Test and Trace Service can now apply for a £500 payment if they cannot work from home.

Last month the Government announced the new Test and Trace Support Payment, which allows local authorities to issue the one-off lump sum to people who have received a positive Covid-19 test result or have been identified as a close contact.

Birmingham City Council has now launched its online application system, enabling eligible workers who have been told to self-isolate from 28 September onwards to submit their application and supporting evidence.

For more information visit:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/733/test-and-trace-support-payments-now-live-in-birmingham?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn&utm_content=COVID-19



Birmingham City Council announces major skills funding provisions for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Birmingham City Council has secured a major boost funding to help small businesses in Birmingham bounce back from the COVID crisis.

The Council has been awarded £12 million from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) for the Supplier Skills Programme, a three-year programme designed to upskill new and existing employees within Small and Medium Enterprises (SME).

The programme aims to transform management expertise, workforce capability and capacity, providing essential tools to help SMEs sustain their performance and productivity.

The Supplier Skills Programme will offer training grants of £500 to a maximum of £18,000 per SME in the more developed area of the GBSLEP. It will upskill up to 7,030 new and existing employees by

providing basic, level 2 and below and level 3+ training including Degree and Master's level management and leadership skills qualifications.

For more information, visit: <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/ssp>

Reviving Birmingham's Economy

Businesses and residents across the city are being invited to give their views on a consultation focusing on the recovery of Birmingham's economy.

Birmingham City Council has opened its Economic Recovery Strategy for public consultation.

The strategy aims to look at the best ways to support the economy as the city recovers from the COVID-19 impact and adapts to changing conditions, including the challenges of leaving the European Union. It sits alongside the plans set out by the Combined Authority and the Local Enterprise Partnership.



For more information, visit:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/729/reviving_birmingham_s_economy?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn&utm_content=COVID-19

Join Birmingham City Council's Covid- 19 Community Champion Network



Birmingham City Council is launching an initiative to help contain and prevent the spread of Coronavirus, based on a model developed by Newham Council. If you live or work in Birmingham, you can become a COVID-19 Community Champion. Champions will empower thousands of Birmingham residents to be up to date on the latest advice about Coronavirus, discuss it and share it with friends and family. The council will keep Champions informed of the latest advice and guidance so that they can help their family, friends and other community members to make sense of the latest facts about the virus.

By having and sharing clear information, friends, family and wider community members will be able to make informed choices. Champions will also have a chance each week to feedback what they are hearing in communities and to discuss any questions they might have.

The role of a COVID-19 Community Champion:

- To be a point of contact within your community (a street, a place of worship, a community organisation, a neighbourhood)
- To pass on key messages in appropriate ways, providing reassurance and an authoritative voice
- To encourage others to become Champions
- To help your community understand what it needs to do to stay safe
- To provide feedback to the Council and let us know what is and isn't working

Please note that being a Covid-19 Community Champion is not an enforcement or regulatory role. While we welcome and value your volunteering as a Covid-19 Community Champion, this does not constitute a contract of employment or eligibility for internal recruitment positions.

To find out more and to sign up to become a Birmingham Covid-19 Community Champion today, visit: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50231/coronavirus_covid-19/2256/covid-19_health_champions

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