

# Keep in Touch



## Coronavirus weekly update from Birmingham City Council

Welcome to the coronavirus weekly update from Birmingham City Council.

The update lets you know about Birmingham City Council's services, public health information, general advice on Covid-19, and other relevant news from the council and our partners so that we can keep you informed. If you have friends and family who are not online, please share the information in this bulletin with them.

You can find a full suite of information about Covid-19 on the council's [website](#).



## Covid guidance

The new NHS COVID-19 app, to help us all protect ourselves, families and communities, is available nationally across England and Wales. You can download it at: [Google Play Store](#) and [Apple App Store](#). Or, find out more information [here](#).

We have launched the COVID-19 [Community Champions Network](#). The council will update champions with the latest coronavirus information so that they can help others to stay protected against the virus.

Please remember: restrictions are in place in Birmingham to reduce the rising coronavirus rates of infection. Residents MUST NOT mix with any other households in private homes or private gardens, except for those in a support bubble. You can find answers to frequently-asked questions [here](#).

Staff from across the council, NHS and wider public sector are knocking on doors in different areas of Birmingham where there are spikes in cases and low testing uptake to [offer free coronavirus tests](#). The volunteers drop off a test, tell you everything you need to know and come back to collect within the hour.

Businesses could be subject to new fines of £10,000 if they fail to [adhere to new guidance](#) surrounding measures such as curfews and face coverings.

Visit the council's website for [translated audio and written information](#) on Coronavirus Test and Trace.

For latest updates and advice on coronavirus, please visit the [government website](#).

## Local news

Following Birmingham's success over the last year in supporting those rough sleeping across the city, the local authority has been granted additional money to continue its [successful approach](#).

In the first of a two-part episode in the council's Let's Be Together podcast series, we focus on how business in Birmingham has been affected by the pandemic, and speak to the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, Colmore Business District, and the council's Deputy Leader, Cllr Brigid Jones, as well as finding out how local businesses have been impacted by coronavirus and adapted to the changes. You can listen to the episodes on [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#).

From next week, roads outside six further Birmingham schools will be [closed to motor traffic](#) at the start/end of the school day. Helping to: reduce traffic congestion; make the air cleaner; and make it better for children to walk, scoot or cycle.

October is Black History Month. [Birmingham's Black History Month](#) launches with a special [online event](#) on Saturday 26 September, at 7pm.

Birmingham Hippodrome's [B-SIDE Hip-Hop Festival](#) is back to celebrate its 5th year, until Sunday 27 September! The festival is taking on a brand new format with an exciting programme of IN-SIDE and OUT-SIDE events and performances.

Live in East Birmingham? [Have your say](#) on our inclusive growth strategy. Plans include 40,000 new jobs, 10,000 new homes and improved access to health, transport and education services.

Smoking damages the lungs and airways and harms the immune system, leaving us more vulnerable to infections, such as flu. This year, breathe easier by [taking part in Stoptober](#).

If you are a victim of illegal money lending, you can call Loan Shark News on their 24-hour helpline 0300 555 2222 or report via the Stop Loan Sharks App. Download it for free [here](#).

Our Youth Promise Plus team is hosting a Youth Opportunities Group session online, next Thursday 1 October – between 12-1pm. If you are 16-29 years old and want help in finding opportunities in employment or training then please join [here](#).