

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

Testing is proving to be an effective way to contain the virus and everyone needs to do their part. Anyone with coronavirus symptoms, however mild, can get a free swab test that takes less than a minute. Tests should be booked or ordered as soon as symptoms begin [here](#) or by calling **119**.

It is important that you get your information on COVID-19 from a trusted source, and follow the [government guidelines](#). There are false and malicious stories in circulation, particularly concerning children returning to school – watch what our Director of Public Health has to say [here](#).

Also, take a look at the BBC Monitoring's top tips for spotting fake COVID news online [here](#).

If you have children returning to school – and have questions or concerns – contact your school direct. You can also read [here](#) about some of the changes that have been made to classrooms across the city.

Wondering what Birmingham classrooms look like as children return? Here's a great example, courtesy of [Harper Bell Primary](#).

There has been a call for COVID vigilance after a rise in West Midlands cases among younger people, who are now specifically being urged to stay vigilant, despite a slight drop in the [number of new cases across the region](#).

Don't forget, city businesses flouting COVID rules could be closed to protect Birmingham people from a local lockdown. The council has new powers to tackle those breaching government guidance – and has launched a [whistle-blowing hotline](#). We've used our new powers [already](#).

Don't be afraid to leave a pub or restaurant if you feel they are not complying with COVID rules. All city businesses should be carrying out correct risk assessments to keep customers and staff safe. Pubs and restaurants should always take your contact details. Report YOUR concerns [here](#).

Visit the council's website for [translated audio and written information](#) on COVID-19 test and trace.

And, with a fresh new page on the calendar: Happy September! With COVID, there's never been a better or more important time to kick-start positive changes in your [health and wellbeing](#).

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

Local news

Looking forward to browsing bookshelves again? Some of our community libraries – plus Library of Birmingham – are now offering a browsing service. Find out which ones are doing this [here](#).

Need to use a household recycling centre? Remember you have to book in advance and show one form of ID (such as council tax or utility bill, or driving licence) to [prove where you live](#).

Have YOUR say on the Birmingham Parks Survey 2020. It's done every two years to find out how happy you are with our local parks – and uncover what improvements YOU [would like to see](#).

TOMORROW, Saturday 5 September, enjoy [a free streamed concert](#) from the world-famous City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle. The council's original investment of £1,250 saw this iconic national orchestra – that all Birmingham people can be proud of – created 100 years ago. So, make a date for YOUR diary and enjoy the concert LIVE from 7pm tomorrow (or recorded, afterwards).