

# COVID-19 (coronavirus) weekly update from Birmingham City Council

18-12-2020

## 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.](#)

This is the last issue of the Coronavirus Weekly Update for 2020. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Stay safe.



### Covid guidance

[The single biggest thing we can all do for our families and friends this Christmas is keep them safe](#), say the seven West Midlands metropolitan authorities in a joint message to everyone in the region.

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Safe guidance for shopping for Birmingham this Christmas: Avoid peak shopping times; ensure shopping baskets have been sanitised; sanitise hands on entering a store; make contactless payments; and remember to wash hands, cover your face, and make space, to help Keep Brum Safe.

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[Rapid Covid-19 testing is now available for Birmingham residents. These tests are for people who do NOT have symptoms but may be infectious.](#) People who have symptoms should continue to ring 119 or go to the NHS website to book a test.

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Vaccines are only made available to the public after meeting strict safety and effectiveness criteria. [Find out more about why vaccines are safe and important.](#)

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[If you need to self-isolate, you MUST stay at home for 10 days.](#) This means: do not leave your home; no trips to the shops; and no walks or exercising in the park. This helps protect others and reduces the spread of COVID-19.

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[The Government has announced the new Christmas Support Payment for wet-led pubs,](#) which will be administered by the council.

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We want to do everything we can to deliver much needed support to businesses in the city. [Register for a BRUM account to apply for the latest business support grants if you meet the conditions.](#)

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[Colmore Business Improvement District \(Colmore BID\) is leading a unique study on The Future Business District to inform its response to long term recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic](#) and to offer policy directions on best practice for this and other central business districts in the UK.

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

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

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## Local news

Spread the word – [changes to bin collections in Birmingham over Christmas and New Year](#): no bin collections on Christmas Day (Dec 25); no recycling collections on Dec 28 & Jan 1 – all other days as normal.

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[A new road within the Perry Barr Residential Scheme is to be named Bert Carless Way,](#) after the city's first black councillor.

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Birmingham City Council has announced the start of a new partnership with Switch Hospitality Management (SWHM). The new deal will see [the council being able to place all families who approach them as homeless and in need of emergency housing, into SWHM buildings.](#)

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Athletes and officials including Team England Track and Field Team Leader Kelly Sotherton have [visited the city's Alexander Stadium for a redevelopment update ahead of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games](#).

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[Meet Caz and Reg, two special clouds taking Birmingham on a journey to cleaner air with the introduction of the Clean Air Zone](#). And [give the gift of clean air this Christmas](#).

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Everyone has a community hero. [Find out how you can honour ordinary people who do extraordinary things in your community with a census Purple Plaque](#).

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[The council has agreed to enter into a joint venture agreement with Lendlease Europe for the £1.9bn Birmingham Smithfield development](#), following Cabinet approval.

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[Birmingham, Sandwell and Solihull's biggest Christmas 'Treecycling' scheme is back for its 10th year!](#)

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A [virtual Cook-A-Long show hosted by Michelin-starred TV chef, Glynn Purnell](#), saw people tune in to raise awareness of West Midlands homelessness scheme, Change into Action.

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Do you want to be a future leader in local government? Tackling social inequalities, protecting the environment and safeguarding the vulnerable? [Find out more about the kind of skills you need for the National Government Development Programme and apply](#).

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For families with children five years and under in need, [Baby Aid Brum has a toys for tots gift wish list](#), with profits of Brummie Christmas cards going towards presents too.

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To mark International Migrants Day, on 18 December, we are sharing stories about our work with refugees and migrants. [Read about our work connecting communities in Brum](#).

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[Birmingham City Council's Markets Car Park in Moat Lane, Digbeth, will close on 10 January 2021](#). It is one of two facilities – the other being Pershore Street Car Park, which closed on 9 April 2020 – which will be demolished next year as work begins to prepare the former Wholesale Markets site for the £1.9bn Birmingham Smithfield development.