

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

23-04-2021

## 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-19 news

The council is working closely with Public Health England and the national NHS Track and Trace team to support [measures to curb any potential spread of COVID variants](#). The areas where we are currently conducting surge testing are in the following wards: Ladywood; Soho and Jewellery Quarter; Alum Rock; Glebe Farm and Tile Cross; and Bordesley Green.

[Free rapid Covid-19 tests are easy to get from local testing sites](#), [tests are also available from the NHS](#), or [pharmacies](#). Even if you don't have symptoms or have been vaccinated, it's a fast, easy way to find out if you have COVID-19 and help stop the spread. And, even if you've had the COVID jab, take an LFD test twice a week to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 with friends, loved ones and your local community.

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Even if you've had your COVID-19 jab, it's still important to [keep following the national guidelines](#) and remember to: wash your hands regularly; wear a face covering where appropriate; and keep your distance from others.

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You are now eligible to [book an appointment for your COVID-19 vaccination if you're over 45](#) \* or schedule your appointment today by calling 119. (\*N.B. now 42+)

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The [NHS is sending texts to some people to invite them to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment](#). These may come from a local NHS service, or from 'NHSvaccine'. Remember the NHS will never ask for payment details. With more than 33 million UK people having had their first COVID jab, don't delay in getting your vaccine when it is offered to you. If you've already had your first jab, are you due your second dose?

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Birmingham City Council has started to process the first COVID pandemic [Restart Grants](#) to businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure industries a week after they reopened their doors to the public.

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We've just launched a survey to improve people's experience of COVID lateral flow testing with the University of Birmingham. [How do You feel about COVID testing?](#)

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Visit the council's website for [translated audio and written information](#) on Coronavirus Test and Trace. Please share this information with people you know who will need translated information.

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

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## Local news

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[Tesco Stores Limited has been fined £7.5 million](#) after pleading guilty to selling food which was past its 'use by' date in three of its Birmingham stores. The council brought the prosecution under the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 after inspections by Environmental Health officers found stores in Bournville, Rubery and the city centre, selling out-of-date food on several occasions.

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Calling all businesses in Birmingham! We want to hear from you on your experiences of hiring young people aged 16-24 – and [how we can work better together to help more young people into employment](#).

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"Birmingham is definitely going to put on a good show. We always deliver. I'm a proud Brummie." The latest episode of Birmingham 2022's [22 Voices podcast](#) features sprinter Mark Lewis Francis, who is excited to see the Commonwealth Games take place in his home city.

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Everyone in England and Wales must be counted on the census. [Did you know, you could be prosecuted and get a £1,000 fine if you don't complete the Census?](#) Our Birmingham team can help you if you message us. Or you can fill in yours online now.

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Happy St George's Day! Today, Friday 23 April, [the flag of St George has been raised on the Council House to mark St George's Day](#). The Library of Birmingham is also set to be lit red and white tonight to mark the day.

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The Cultural Development team at Birmingham City Council is providing [funding to support arts projects](#) in Birmingham on three themes: culture on our doorstep; next generation; and cultural diversity.

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Council questions? Did YOU know you can contact our council Customer Services team on Twitter, to help you with any service enquiries you may have? Use this hashtag: [@BCC\\_Help](#)