

	<b><u>Agenda Item: #</u></b>
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Local COVID Outbreak Engagement Board</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>ENFORCEMENT AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES AROUND CORONAVIRUS</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Environmental Health, Neighbourhoods</b>
<b>Presenting Officer</b>	<b>Gary James</b>

<b>Report Type:</b>	<b>Information report</b>
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### **1. Purpose:**

1.1 The report updates the group on the work of Environmental Health to try and control the spread of coronavirus and to encourage others to comply with national advice.

### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 That the report be noted.

### **3. Report Body**

3.1 The PowerPoint appendix to this report is an update on the enforcement activity undertaken by Environmental Health in the last month.

3.2 Birmingham City Council has received a Government grant for increased enforcement and compliance on Covid issues. Further to last months report we have now recruited and rolled out 24 Covid Wardens for the city in general and a further 8 for the city's parks. These officers have no regulatory powers and are very much there to educate, encourage and guide people through the changes in the rules and regulations. We hope they can help business trade safely and pass tips from area to area on good compliance. We have also provided masks and sanitiser gels that can be given out to those that forget to bring theirs.

3.3 We are pleased to report that the change from "lockdown 2" to Tier 3 went smoothly. Officers in general found businesses are still trying to be compliant with tier 3 although there are a few which are not. An interesting phenomenon this last week was that the inclement weather and cold snap lead to less people queuing outside and too many squeezing into shops. We did our best to remind people of the "2m, face and space" message but we do need to recognise this could increase spread. We are encouraging shops to keep encouraging appropriate queuing.

3.4 We have been working with government on the regulations. In the last month we have been advising government on the difficulties both enforcement officers and businesses have with poorly drafted legislation. You will have seen the problems around what constitutes a “substantial meal”. In addition, we have had problems where the definitions such as snooker halls being defined as entertainment rather than sport and leisure has caused some confusion. This subtle difference results in the halls having to remain closed but would have been able to open as a sports venue. Unfortunately, it did raise the expectations of some businesses and led to us having to work with them to understand the new regulations.

3.5 The joint working with West Midlands Police and Environmental Health continues. There are daytime and evening patrols as well as sharing of information and service of enforcement notices. In general, the interaction is targeted and ensures a consistency of approach by all. We are now looking to target areas with increasing rates of covid incidence and linking to the epidemiological statistics produced by Public Health.

<b>4. Risk Analysis</b>			
Further delay in publication. Changes suggested at presentations.			
<b>Identified Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Actions to Manage Risk</b>
None identified			

<b>Appendices</b>
<b>PowerPoint</b>

The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:

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 Gary James                        Manager Environmental Health  
 10 December 2020