**RESTRICTED & CONFIDENTIAL TO RECIPIENTS** 

## Birmingham Local Outbreak Engagement Board Covid-19 Overview

Birmingham Public Health Division 27/04/2021



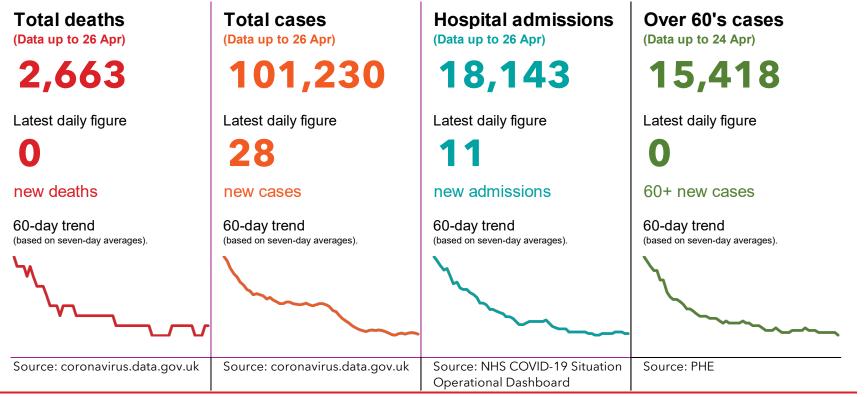


## Overview





## Covid-19 in Birmingham: Current situation and 60-day trend





## Testing & Cases Summary: 7 Days up to 25th April 2021

- 7 Day Rolling Case Rate to 24<sup>th</sup> April (Pillar 1 & 2)
  - Rate on 17<sup>th</sup> April
  - Ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the West Midlands region, with Stoke-on-Trent ranked 1<sup>st</sup> (41.3/100K)
- 7 Day Pillar 2 PCR testing rate at 25<sup>th</sup> April
  - Rate of testing on 18<sup>th</sup> April
  - Ranked 13<sup>th</sup> highest in the region
- 7 Day lateral flow testing rate at 25<sup>th</sup> April
  - Ranked 14<sup>th</sup>, the lowest in the region
- % of Pillar 2 positive PCR tests at 25<sup>th</sup> April
  - Rate on 18<sup>th</sup> April
- % of positive lateral flow tests at 25<sup>th</sup> April

1,154/100K 1.259/100

6,159/100K

24.0/100K

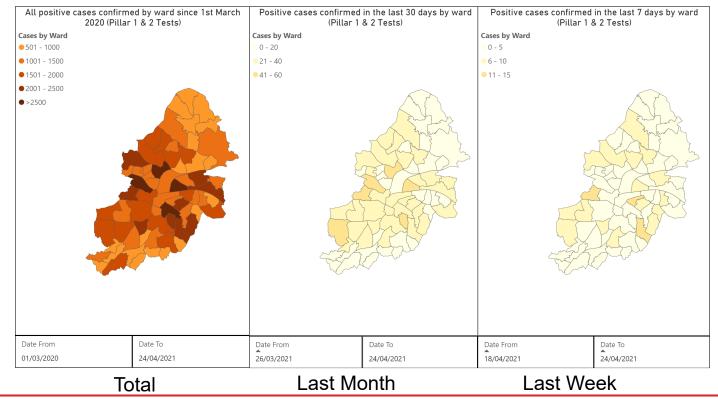
23 2/100





## Cases by Ward: Total, Last Month & Last Week

#### **Confirmed Cases by Ward for Pillar 1 & 2 Tests**





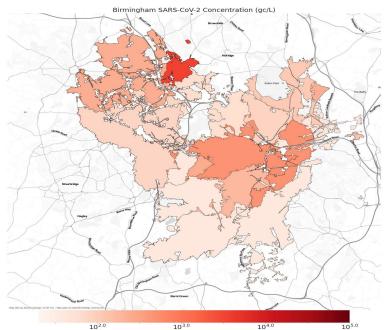
#### **Top Ten Case Rates by Ward**

Ward	Prior week (2021-04-07 to Mo 2021-04-13)		Most recent week (2021-04-14 to 2021-04-20)		Change between last two weeks		
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	%	Absolute d	ifference *
Handsworth	8	63.9	7	56.0	-12	-7.9	$\rightarrow$
Bordesley Green	3	23.4	7	54.6	133	31.2	$\rightarrow$
Hall Green South	1	9.7	5	48.6	401	38.9	$\rightarrow$
Allens Cross	6	56.7	5	47.3	-16	-9.4	$\rightarrow$
Sparkhill	9	41.6	10	46.2	11	4.6	$\rightarrow$
Heartlands	5	37.1	6	44.6	20	7.5	$\rightarrow$
Alum Rock	11	40.7	12	44.4	9	3.7	$\rightarrow$
Sutton Trinity	2	21.6	4	43.1	99	21.5	$\rightarrow$
Nechells	1	6.1	7	42.5	596	36.4	↑
Perry Common	4	33.9	5	42.4	25	8.5	$\rightarrow$

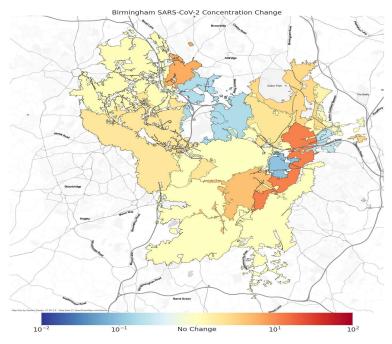
Nechells saw a significant increase in case rates between the most recent week and the prior week. However, 3 wards showed a statistically significant decrease (Tyseley & Hay Mills, Ward End and Bordesley & Highgate.

\*Relative change arrow based on incidence rate ratio p value <0.05

#### NHS WASTEWATER SARS-COV-2 REPORT – Data to 22/04/21



SARS-CoV-2 RNA concentration in wastewater. Darker shading indicate areas with a higher viral concentration. Higher concentration is associated with increased prevalence.



Change in weekly average SARS-CoV-2 RNA concentration in wastewater (scale is to maximum increase/decrease within the city).



## Variants of Concern





## **Variants of Concern**

- Variants of Concern (VOC) are variants of Covid-19 that are more infectious, or have higher rates of hospitalisation or mortality, or are vaccine resistant or a combination of these.
- Variants of Interest (VOI) reflect potential of these but there is not enough data yet to conform the level of concern/risk.
- Key variants of concern (VOC):
  - Brazil none currently notified to BCC in Birmingham
  - South African all of current VOC cases being investigated
  - UK/Kent majority of new cases in Birmingham currently
- Variants of interest (VOI):
  - India being reviewed may escalated to VOC



## **Operation Eagle Response**

- The focus on contain and eradicate approach focused on SA cases where community transmission is possible because of no history of international travel.
- The approach is to do saturation testing within a defined geographical area to attempt to find the connection to international travel or identify if community spread is established.
- Testing is done through PCR testing of asymptomatic people and kits are sent to a specific national laboratory for testing, if positive then further genotype testing is done which takes a further 7-10 days.
- Individuals are told if positive but only contacted by Public Health England if the further genetic testing identifies South African variant.



## **Operation Eagles in Birmingham**

#### **Op Eagle 1 - Feb**

- Household linked family cluster.
- Testing in Frankley Great Park and Northfield area
- Two week surge testing.
- 12,500 tests completed.
- No new cases of SA VOC identified.

#### Op Eagle 2 – w/c 12/04

- Single case, no travel history
- Area around City Hospital and New Spring Street Park & links to Sandwell

#### Op Eagle 3 – w/c 19/04

- Single case, no travel history
- Area on border of Alum Rock & Glebe Farm & Tile Cross wards

#### Op Eagle 4 - w/c 21/04

- Family cluster (2 cases), no travel history
- Area around Bordesley Highgate and Ladywood



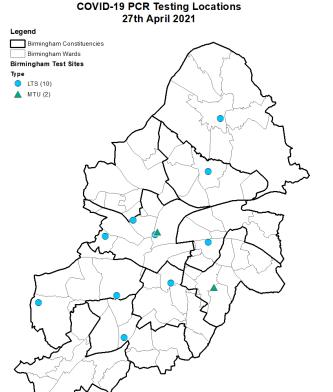






## **PCR Test Locations**

- There are currently 2 active drive-in mobile testing unit (MTU) sites:
  - Aston University
  - Mecca Bingo in Acocks Green
- There are currently 10 active walk-in local testing sites (LTS):
  - South Parade, Sutton Coldfield
  - 60 Villa St, Lozells
  - Summerfield Sports Centre
  - Aston University (car park 6), Coleshill St
  - Saltley Health & Wellbeing Centre
  - University of Birmingham South Gate
  - Woodgate Valley Country Park
  - Lifford House, Stirchley
  - Alfred Rd, Sparkbrook
  - 66-86 Orphanage Rd, Erdington

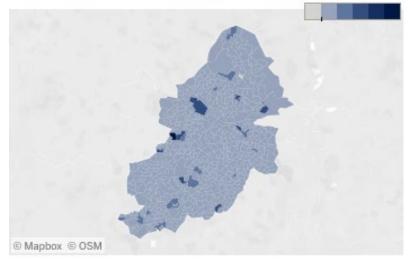


Notes: LTS = Local Testing Site, MTU = Mobile Testing Unit. Source: COVID-19 Testing Dashboard produced 27th April 2021. Produced by Birmingham Public Health Division (2021). © Crown copyright and database rights 2021 Ordnance Survey 100021326.

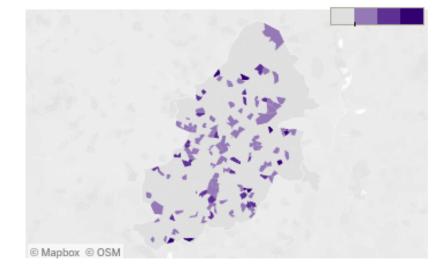


## PCR Testing (Pillar 2) by LSOA: 7 Days up to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

7-day rate of total Pillar 2 tests LSOA (per 100K population) Range 0.0K to 12.4K



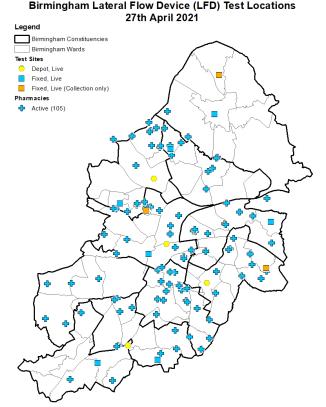
7-day rate of positive Pillar 2 tests LSOA (per 100K population) Range 0.0 to 286.3





## **Lateral Flow Test Locations**

- Lateral flow testing is now offered through a range of fixed testing sites as well as home testing options. As home testing access has increased testing sites have moved to become hybrid or collection only sites.
- There are 7 fixed sites (blue squares), and 3 fixed sites collection only(orange squares) across the city. These are now operating as collection only or hybrid sites as more of the population is moving to home testing with lateral flow devices.
- The mobile testing service ceased on 13<sup>th</sup> April, and from then onwards, The Lighthouse in Aston became a fixed site open for collections only.
- There are a total of 105 pharmacy community testing sites currently live.
- Lateral Flow Devise (LFD) Inclusion Pilot: We are engaged with homeless organisations to enable homeless citizens collect and undertake regular LFD tests. There are currently 5 organisations up and running and 7 in the process of being set up.

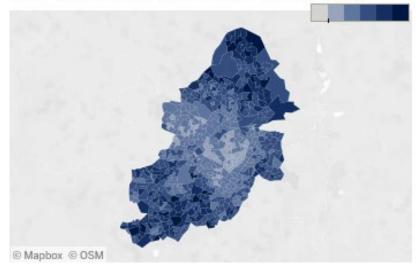


Source: Central Health Solutions produced 27th April 2021. Produced by Birmingham Public Health Division (2021). © Crown copyright and database rights 2021 Ordnance Survey 100021326.



## Lateral Flow Testing (Pillar 2) by LSOA: 7 Days up to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

7-day rate of total Pillar 2 tests LSOA (per 100K population) Range 1.4K to 14.4K

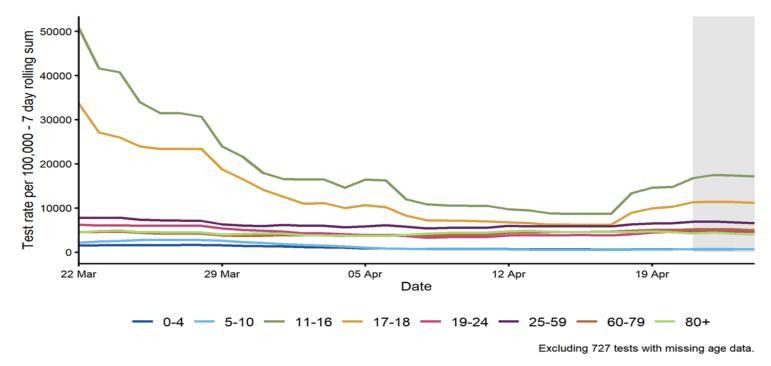


7-day rate of positive Pillar 2 tests LSOA (per 100K population) Range 0.0 to 143.2



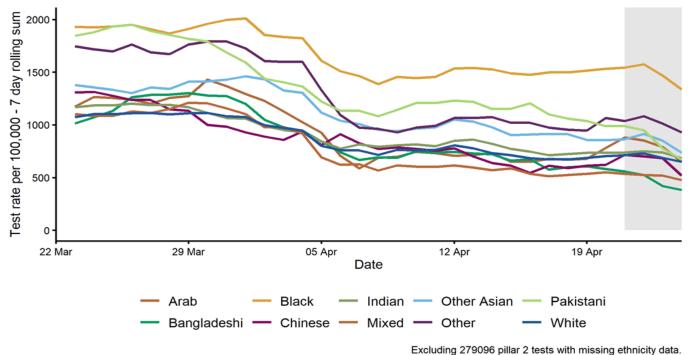


Age-Specific 7-Day Rolling Pillar 1 & 2 Test Rates per 100,000 Population Among Residents of Birmingham: 22<sup>nd</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021



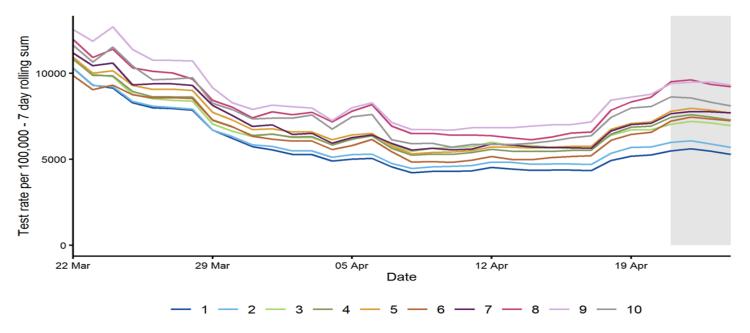
4 most recent days excluded due to reporting delays

#### Ethnicity-Specific 7-Day Rolling Pillar 2 Test Rates per 100,000 Population Among Birmingham Residents: 22<sup>nd</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021



4 most recent days excluded due to reporting delays

Index of Multiple Deprivation-Specific 7-Day Rolling Pillar 1 & 2 Test Rates per 100,000 Population Among Birmingham Residents: 22<sup>nd</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021



Using Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) of LSOA of usual residence (1 = most deprived; 10 = least deprived). Where an IMD is not present in local denominator data, it is not shown. *4 most recent days excluded due to reporting delays* 



## **Case Demographics**

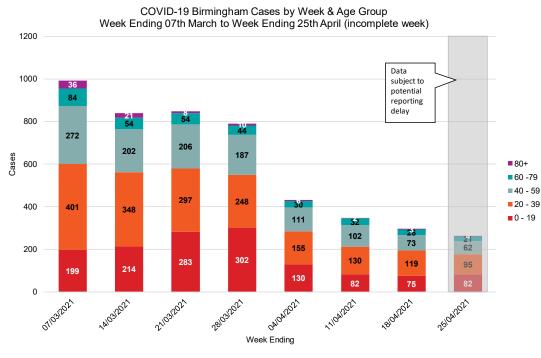




## **Cases by Week & Age Group**

- Overall, case numbers have fallen in all age groups since the start of National Lockdown; however, there now seems to be a slight increase in the case numbers for 0 – 19.
- Currently, the 20 39 age group accounts for the highest number of positive cases followed by the 0 – 19 age group.
- Comparing week ending 25/04/21 to the previous week, cases in the 0 – 19 age group have risen by approximately 9%.

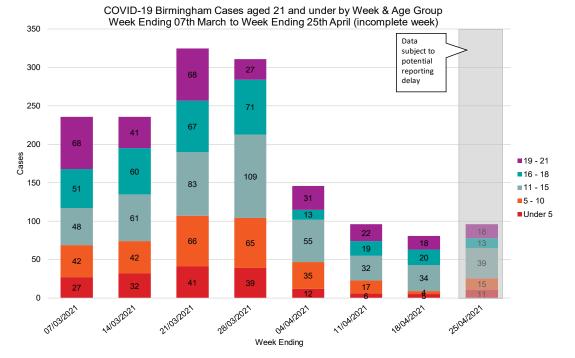
Cases for week ending 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.





## **Cases in Children & Young Adults**

- Overall, case numbers in young adults and children have fallen since the peak in January 2021.
- Case numbers did however experience a slight increase in the two weeks after the return to school (08<sup>th</sup> March).
- As of the week ending 25/04/21, number of cases in ages 0 – 15 is slightly increasing.

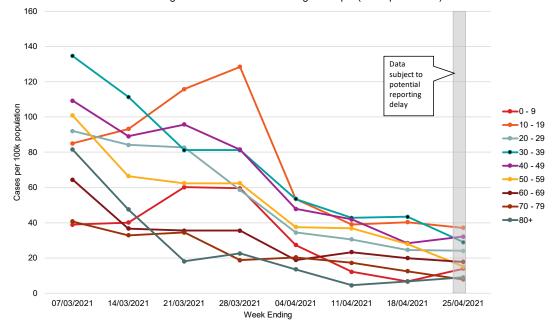


Cases for week ending 25th April 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.



## **Case Rates by Age**

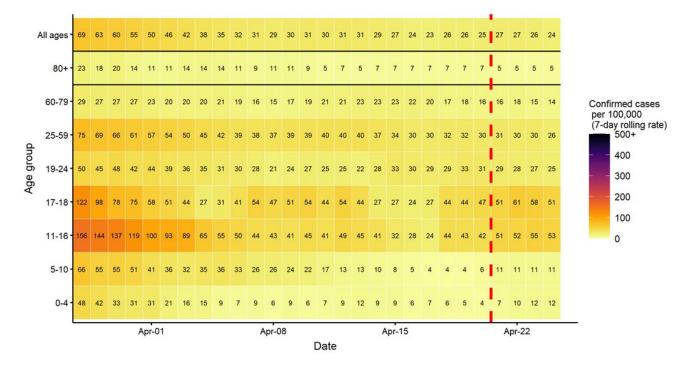
- After schools reopened for pupils on 8<sup>th</sup> March, case rates for ages 0-9 and 10-19 increased, then fell again over the Easter break but has remained stable over a couple of weeks.
- Case rates increased slightly in the 0-9 and 40-49 age group in the week ending 25/04/21.
- Case rates are highest in those aged 10 - 19 and lowest in the 70 - 79 age group.



COVID-19 Birmingham Case Rate per 100,000 Population by Week & Age Group Week Ending 07th March to Week Ending 25th April (incomplete week)

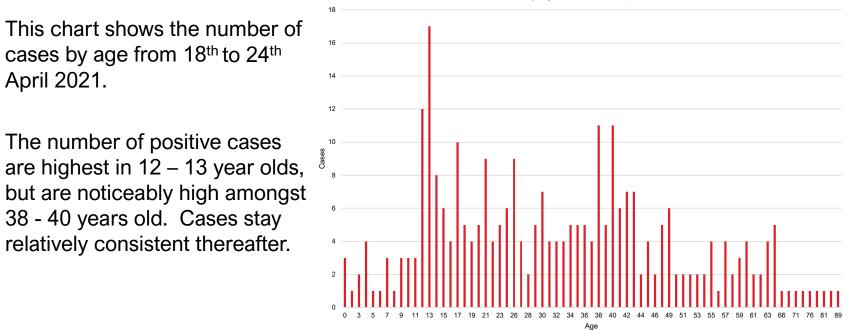
Cases for week ending 25th April 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.

#### Age-Specific 7-Day Rolling Case Rates per 100,000 Population in Birmingham: 28<sup>th</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021



The red dashed line denotes the 4 most recent days that are subject to reporting delays.

## **Cases by Single Year of Age**



Cases by Age 18th to 24th April 2021

Cases for week ending 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.



April 2021.

### **Case Rate in Population aged 60+**

- Since the start of the National Lockdown on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the rate of positive cases in the 60+ age group has decreased significantly.
- Low case rates are linked to lower hospital admissions and mortality. A further decrease is expected as vaccination uptake continues to increase.

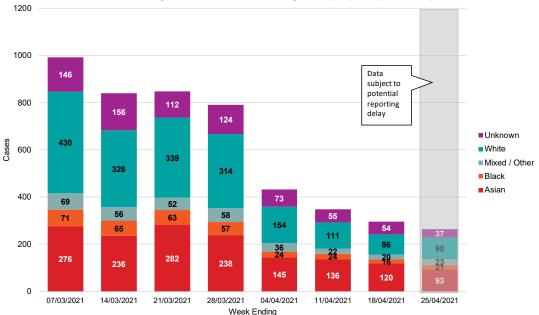
COVID-19 Rate in Birmingham Aged 60+ by Week Week Ending 07th March to Week Ending 25th April (incomplete week) 70.0 60.0 Data subject to potential reporting 50.0 er 100,000 Population 0.08 0.08 delay per Rate 20.0 10.0 0.0 14/03/2021 21/03/2021 04/04/2021 11/04/2021 18/04/2021 25/04/2021 07/03/2021 28/03/2021 Week Ending

Cases for week ending 25th April 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.



## **Cases by Week & Ethnicity**

- Across all ethnic groups, case numbers have fallen since the start of National Lockdown, on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- Currently (week ending 25/04/2021) the Asian ethnic group accounts for the highest number of cases, followed by the White ethnic group.
- Since the start of the pandemic (1<sup>st</sup> March 2020), the long-term trend shows those from White ethnic background had seen the highest proportion of cases over time.



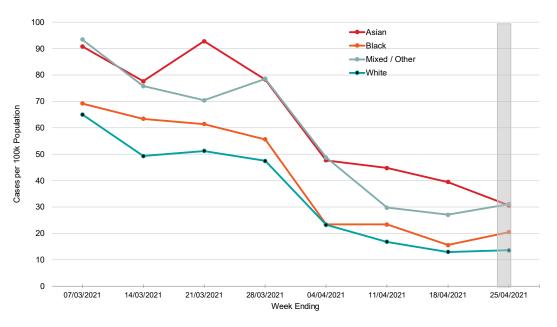
COVID-19 Birmingham Cases by Week & Ethnicity Week Ending 07th March to Week Ending 25th April (incomplete week)

Cases for week ending 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.

## **Case Rate by Ethnic Group**

- Previous weeks have shown that the Asian ethnic group has experienced the highest positive case rates per 100,000 population
- The highest positive case rates were seen in the Mixed/other ethnic group.
- Currently, the lowest positive case rates are seen in the White ethnic group.
- Overall, case rates have fallen across all ethnic groups since the start of National Lockdown.

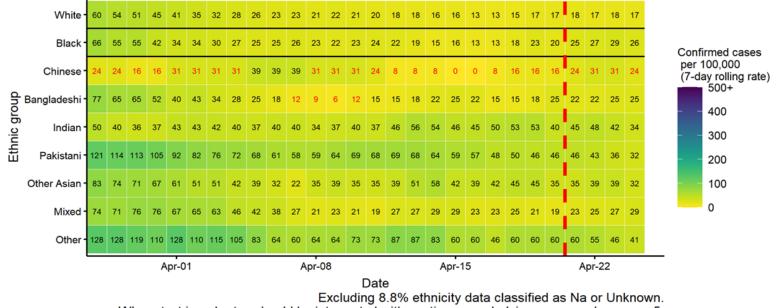
COVID-19 Birmingham Case Rate per 100,000 Population by Week & Ethnic Group Week Ending 07th March to Week Ending 25th April (incomplete week)



Cases for week ending 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.



#### Ethnicity-Specific 7-day Rolling Case Rates per 100,000 Population in Birmingham: 28<sup>th</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021

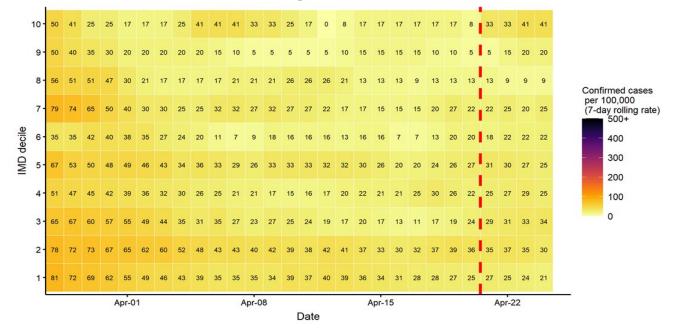


Where text is red rates should be interpreted with caution as underlying case numbers are <5.

The red dashed line denotes the 4 most recent days that are subject to reporting delays.



## Index of Multiple Deprivation-Specific 7-Day Rolling Case Rates per 100,000 Population in Birmingham: 28<sup>th</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021



Using Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) of LSOA of usual residence (1 = most deprived; 10 = least deprived). Where an IMD is not present in local denominator data, it is not shown. *The red dashed line denotes the 4 most recent days that are subject to reporting delays.* 



## **NHS Situations**



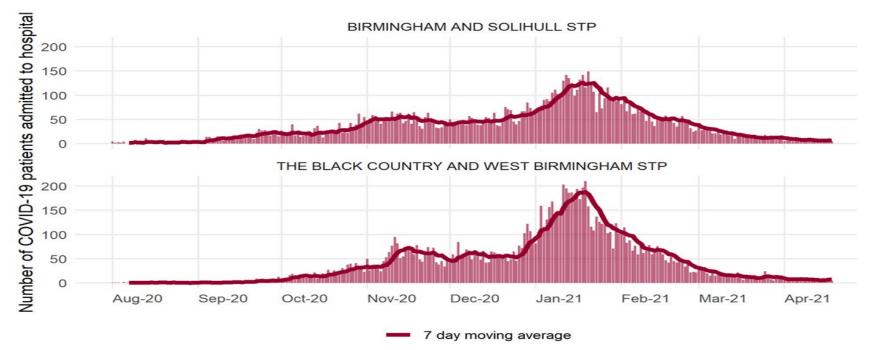


## **Hospital Metrics Data**

Hospital Trust	Covid - 19 Daily Admissions 18/04	Hospital in- patients 20/04	Patients on Mechanical Ventilation 20/04
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	4	41	13
Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	2	33	4
Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	1	0	0
Birmingham Women's & Children's NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0
Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0



# Daily number of COVID-19 patients admitted to hospital in the Sustainability & Transformation Partnerships (STPs) associated with Birmingham, August 2020 to April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021









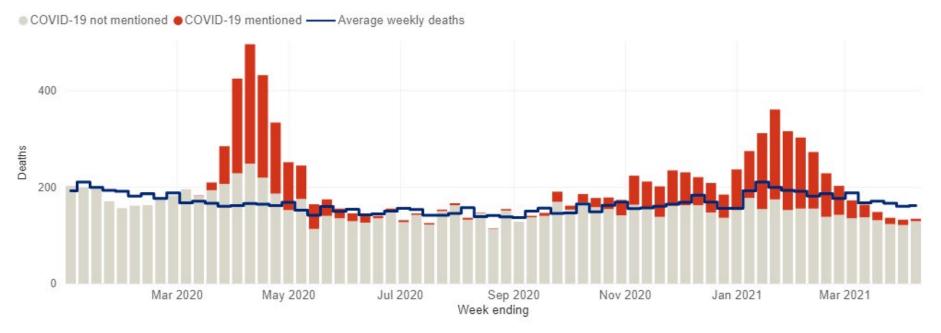


## Death Data

- The most recent death data, where death occurred within 28 days of a positive Covid-19 test for the week ending the 24<sup>th</sup> April, reported 6 deaths and a death rate of 0.5 deaths/100K population.
- The more accurate data based on Covid-19 being mentioned on the death certificate is more historical and the most recent week is that ending 9<sup>th</sup> April, which reported 8 deaths registered in Birmingham. Of these, 75.0% were in hospital, 12.5% in care homes and 12.5% at home.



## Excess Death: All Deaths up to 9<sup>th</sup> April



We have observed a fall in COVID deaths and there have been no excess deaths (deaths above the 5 year average) in Birmingham for the last six reported weeks.

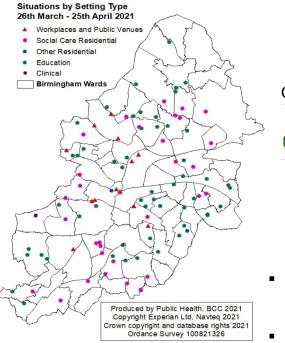


# Situations



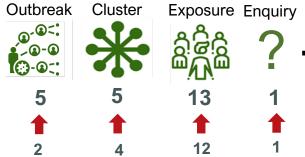


### **Confirmed Situations in Birmingham: Last Month & Last 7 days**



Map represents the last month. One postcode can represent more than one situation





- A total of 24 situations were recorded in the last 7 days, an increase of 19 situations from the previous week.
- Exposures, Clusters and Outbreaks have all seen an increase in situations this week.

- Education account for 10 situations this week, 1 outbreak, 2 clusters, and 7 Exposures. There were no situations reported last week.
- **Social Care Residential** settings account for 9 of the situations this week, reporting 1 Outbreak, 1 Cluster, 6 Exposures and 1 Enquiry. **An increase of 7 situations since last week.**
- **Workplaces & Public Venues** account for 4 situations this week, reporting 2 Outbreaks and 2 Clusters.
- Other Residential reported 1 situation this week (outbreak), an increase of 1 situation since last week.



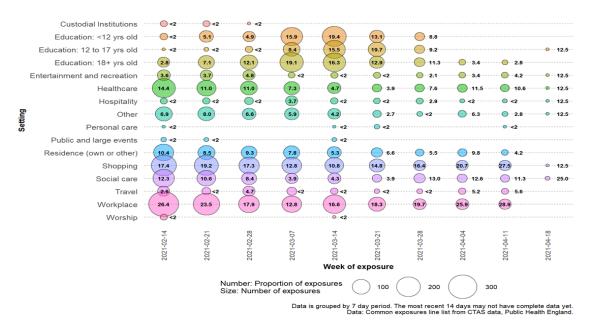
### **Situation Awareness**

- There has been an increase in notifications for this week, with 24 new or ongoing situations that required intervention from the HPR team. There have been more exposures as opposed to clusters or outbreaks.
- Education: The number of situations have increased by 10, with secondary schools making up the majority of situations. 2 situations involved international travel.
- Workplace & Public Venues: The number of situations has increased from 0 last week to 4 this week. Additionally, HPR investigated more escalations from CTAS, but only a small proportion of those contained sufficient information to trigger a response. All situations have been escalated to Environmental Health. 2 situations involved international travel.
- Social Care/Other Residential Settings: account for 10 situations this week, the majority of which are in care homes. One situation has been escalated to Environmental Health and Children's Social Care Commissioners, and two to Adult Social Care Commissioners for further investigation.
- We continue to work closely with the local Test & Trace Contact Tracing team to ensure cases are being reported and escalated correctly.



### **Common Exposure Events Reported by Cases Resident in Birmingham\***

#### Number & percentage of weekly exposures by setting: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021



- The number of common exposures identified has fallen in recent weeks.
- The last reported week (18<sup>th</sup> April 21) shows Social care as the most common setting type for common exposures. Whereas previous weeks showed workplace and shopping.
- Common exposures are not proof of transmission in a setting but provide evidence of where transmission might be taking place.

\*Reported in the 2-7 days before symptom onset, where at least 2 cases visit the same property 2-7 days before symptom onset and within 7 days of each other, by setting type and date of event.



# **Contact Tracing**

#### 

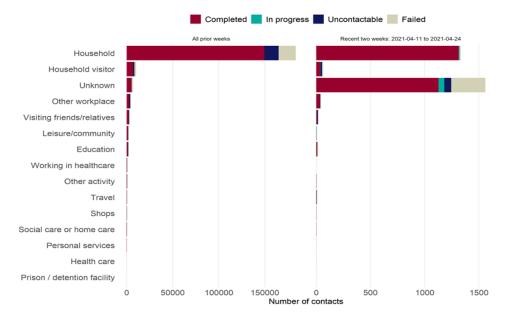


# **Contact Tracing**

- The Contact Tracing service now covers all Birmingham wards.
- A team providing face-to-face visits is in place for positive cases that:
  - cannot be reached by telephone (3 attempts, including voicemail and texts). These are referred to Environmental Health for follow-up (approx. 2-3 cases/day at present)
  - refuse to co-operate/self-isolate. These are referred to Environmental Health for follow-up visits (approx. 2 cases/day) and if necessary escalated to the Police.
- Total no. of positive cases received over April = 752; completion rate of 88%.
- Completion rate increased following implementation of text message sent prior to telephone call and the introduction of WMFS face-to-face follow up visits.
- BCC contribute to and are part of the national reference site to support the ongoing development of the current national Contact Tracing System (CTAS) for managing the case interviews and the new Integrated Tracing System (ITS) will replace CTAS.
- On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Birmingham joined the 'Local Zero' pilot for 6 weeks (TBC). All cases will now bypass the national team and come directly to the BCC trace team. This will allow us to engage with more citizens and directly offer any welfare help and support they may need such as food, support or processing Test and Trace grant payments.
- Since starting local zero our completion rate has risen to 91% over a 7 day period. This is ahead of the local zero target of 80%.



# Test & Trace Contacts by Exposure/Activity Setting & Current Outcome: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021



- Households are the most common exposure/activity setting.
- An increase in the unknown category was observed in the last three weeks, where data on exposure/activity setting has not been provided
- In the past two weeks, over 2,500 contacts were successfully completed, i.e. asked to self-isolate.

#### Data collected by NHS Track & Trace (NTAT).

Uncontactable cases: insufficient contact details provided to contact the person. Failed contact tracing: contact tracing team attempted but did not succeed in contacting an individual.



# **Communications & Engagement**



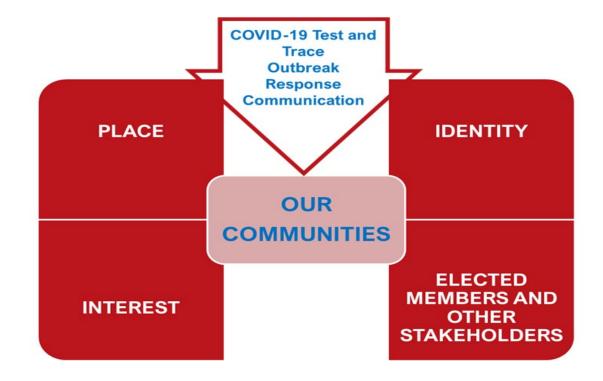


**Communication and Engagement Plan/Objectives (updated March 2021)** 





### Core engagement threads to aid delivery





# **COVID Champion Programme**

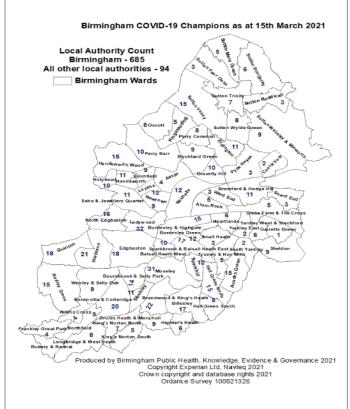
Coverage of champions across all 69 wards – currently 798.

#### Ongoing work:

- Analysis of representation and ward profile which will allow us to form a recruitment strategy
- Current webinar themes: Mental health, isolation, testing
- Thematic analysis of key themes (inbox, webinars & social media)
- Engagement via fortnightly webinars (next one 29<sup>th</sup> April)
- New information added to the 'sign up' form to capture how people have heard about us.

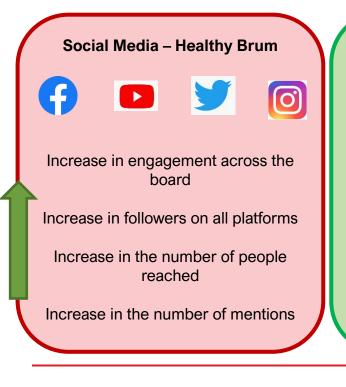
Good representation of different religions, ethnicities and the LGBTQ community. However, we need more representation of:

- Males
- Bangladeshi communities
- Caribbean communities
- Young people aged 18-30 years
- People who consider themselves to have a disability





### **Digital Engagement: March to April 2021**



#### Website

500,000 visits to our COVID-19 Pages

#### Website Updates:

- Vaccine slide deck in multiple languages
  - New LFT sites
  - New LFT map
  - New BSL resources
  - · Letters to schools
  - New guidance (roadmap)
  - Physical Activity webinars

#### Tweetathon

Healthy

Brum

Took place on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to encourage take up of the universal home rapid lateral flow testing and to coincide with the launch of Step 2 of the Roadmap out of lockdown #testandtweet

- 32 tweets
- 34k impressions
- 139 people engaged
- 287 clicks



# **Engagement with Faith Groups**

### Over the last month we have continued to

- Meet with Birmingham Masjids on a weekly basis and we have co-produced local guidance for Masjids to support them to operate in a COVID-19 safe way during Ramadan.
- Meet fortnightly with Black Led Churches and the Interfaith Group.
- Send written communication including letters to faith groups during festivals such as Easter, Passover, Vaisakhi and Ramadan.

### **Our engagement includes**

- Ongoing dialogue with the groups about COVID-19 vaccination and some of the challenges the groups are having from their respective congregations on the issue of COVID-19 vaccines, enforcement, testing, isolation and any other topics related to COVID-19 guidance.
- Ongoing provision of resources, accurate information and interpretation of guidance to faith groups to better inform their congregations and support in busting any myths or addressing misinformation.
- Seek the support of Faith groups to help with messaging about LFD home test kits and step 2 of the roadmap.
- Share examples of materials and resources produced by faith groups on social media and other channels.



### Partnership engagement

- Raised awareness about universal lateral flow testing in partnership with the local community champions, community partners and the CCG.
- Supported community partners to lead conversations with their communities to address any concerns about vaccination and addressing misinformation.
- Communication and engagement regarding South African variant and testing shared with businesses, workplaces, education settings, faith groups and via email newsletter to community champions.
  - Held meetings and targeted webinars with these settings in affected wards/areas agreed for surge testing to answer questions and advise key stakeholders about logistics.
  - Shared information via the settings and responded to any queries.
  - Provided useful information and links on webpages.
  - Shared briefings with elected members.



### **Further Work in Development (1)**

Following successfully securing £440,000 of the Community Champions Fund from the Ministry of Housing and Local Communities (MHCLG) we have established a Communications and Engagement programme to strengthen our relationships with residents impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19).

This includes:

- Working with key city-wide business groups across a number of sectors to strengthen our engagement with the business community, sharing key messaging, co-hosting a series of business briefings and recruiting business leaders to become Champions.
- Working with the Youth Service team to co-produce engaging and relevant content with children and young people and distribute throughout our networks.
- Increasing the range of accessible information for hard to reach and vulnerable groups to include people with learning difficulties, poor literacy and vulnerable families.
- Extending further relationships with our 18 existing community partners to co-ordinate the set up and delivery of a minimum of 10 telephone/befriending trees for those communities with limited digital access.
- Extending the contract of our 18 Community partners from April 2021 for 12 months to accelerate engagement to support understanding and the uptake of testing, vaccination and recovery.



### **Further Work in Development (2)**

- Developing the service specification for three different projects based on vulnerable adults.
- Asset mapping the 69 wards to highlight gaps in our current engagement work. We will then scope and commission further partners to reach the identified communities.
- Review the COVID Champions network, communications and engagement to leverage improved relationships with communities and their understanding of different ways of testing and range of vaccinations, as well as managing recovery.
- Explore effective ways to recruit and retain COVID Champions in the areas needed by using digital and off-line communications.
- Materials:
  - Vaccination Toolkit for the COVID Champions and Community Providers.
  - Isolation/support guidance and pack for communities.
  - Co-producing guidance for Eid.









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