

Birmingham Local Outbreak Engagement Board Covid-19 Overview

Birmingham Public Health Division
25/05/2021



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Overview



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

Total deaths
(Data up to 24 May)

2,667

Latest daily figure

1

new deaths

60-day trend
(based on seven-day averages).



Source: coronavirus.data.gov.uk

Total cases
(Data up to 24 May)

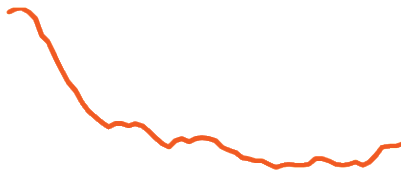
102,040

Latest daily figure

29

new cases

60-day trend
(based on seven-day averages).



Source: coronavirus.data.gov.uk

Hospital admissions
(Data up to 24 May)

18,324

Latest daily figure

7

new admissions

60-day trend
(based on seven-day averages).



Source: NHS COVID-19 Situation
Operational Dashboard

Over 60's cases
(Data up to 22 May)

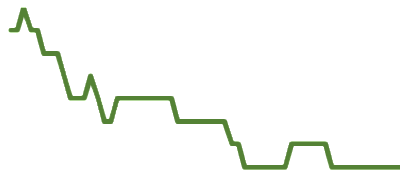
15,479

Latest daily figure

2

60+ new cases

60-day trend
(based on seven-day averages).



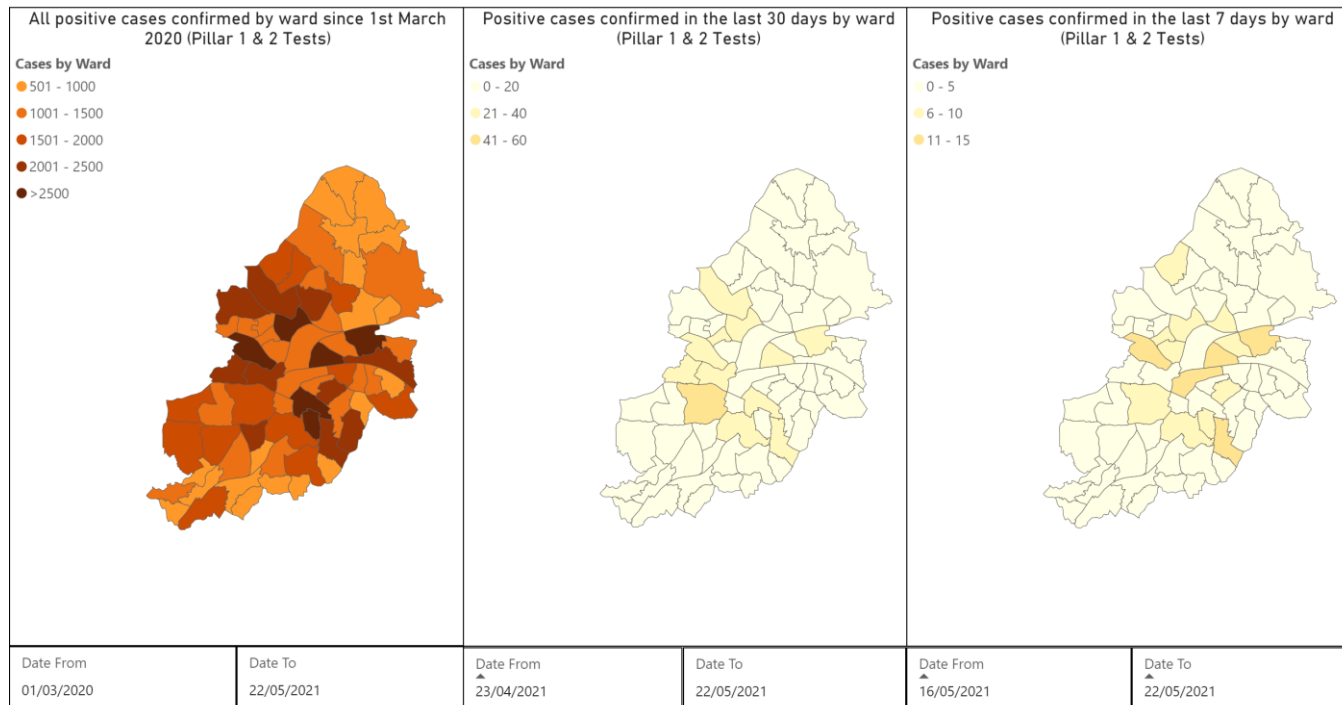
Source: PHE

Testing & Cases Summary: 7 Days up to 23rd May 2021

- 7 Day Rolling Case Rate to 22nd May (Pillar 1 & 2) 23.1/100K
 - Rate on 15th May 16.5/100K
 - Ranked 1st in the West Midlands region, with Stoke-on-Trent 2nd (19.9/100K)
- 7 Day Pillar 2 PCR testing rate at 23rd May 1,467/100K
 - Rate of testing on 16th May 1,322/100K
 - Ranked 13th highest in the region
- 7 Day lateral flow testing rate at 23rd May 5,407/100K
 - Ranked 14th, the lowest in the region
- % of Pillar 2 positive PCR tests at 23rd May 1.3%
 - Rate on 16th May 0.9%
- % of positive lateral flow tests at 23rd May 0.2%

Cases by Ward: Total, Last Month & Last Week

Confirmed Cases by Ward for Pillar 1 & 2 Tests



Total

Last Month

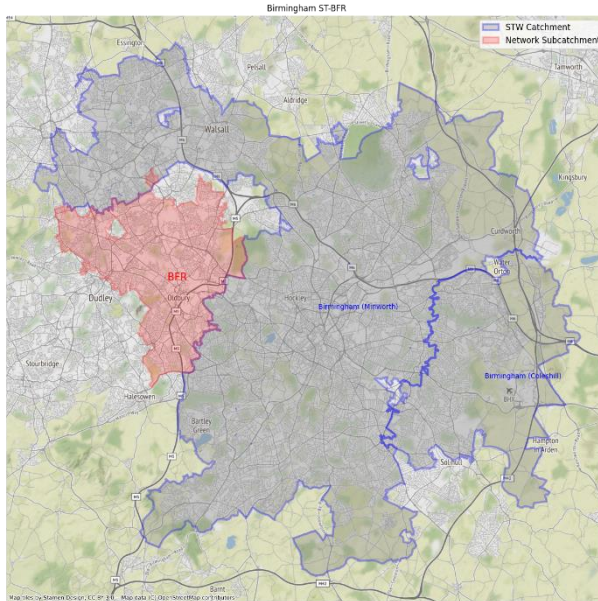
Last Week

Top Ten Case Rates by Ward

Ward	Prior week (2021-05-06 to 2021-05-12)		Most recent week (2021-05-13 to 2021-05-19)		Change between last two weeks		
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	%	Absolute difference *	
Lozells	8	81.7	8	81.7	0	0.0	→
Bordesley & Highgate	3	18.7	12	74.8	299	56.1	↑
Pype Hayes	2	18.6	7	65.0	249	46.4	→
Hall Green South	1	9.7	6	58.3	501	48.6	→
Bromford & Hodge Hill	1	4.6	12	54.8	1091	50.2	↑
Edgbaston	14	63.9	12	54.8	-14	-9.1	→
Small Heath	1	4.8	11	52.8	1000	48.0	↑
Ward End	0	0.0	7	51.1	Inf	51.1	↑
Handsworth	1	8.0	5	40.0	400	32.0	→
Hall Green North	3	13.2	9	39.5	199	26.3	→

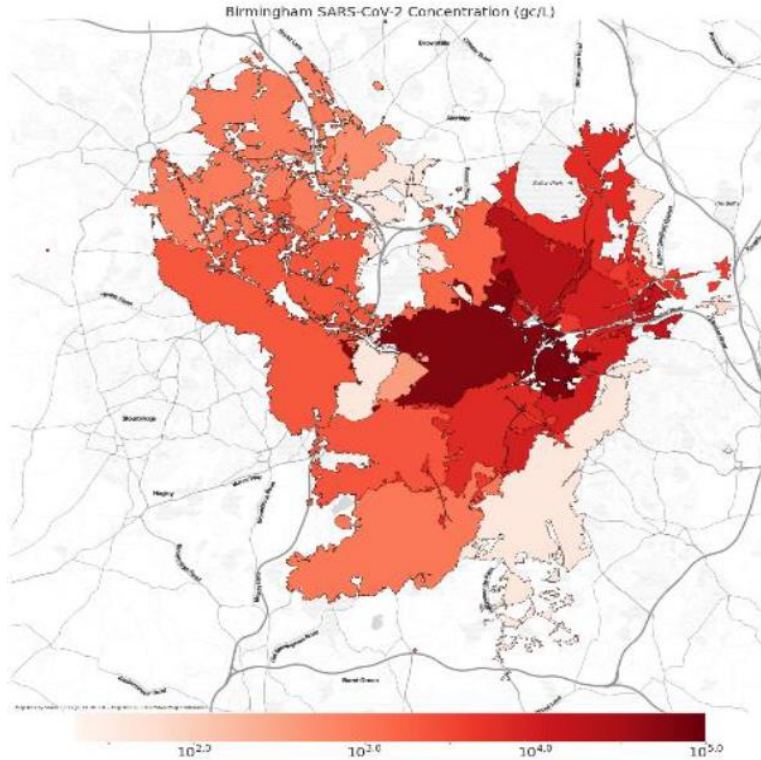
Bordesley & Highgate, Bromford & Hodge Hill, Small Heath, Ward End, Longbridge & West Heath and Erdington saw significant increase in case rates between the most recent week and the prior week. However, 2 wards showed a statistically significant decrease.

Wastewater VOC Report – Data to 02/05/21



- Positive detection of VOC 21Apr-02 on the 30th April.
- Further sequencing to be conducted around 7 catchment areas.

WASTEWATER SARS-COV-2



- SARS-CoV-2 RNA concentration in wastewater in Birmingham up to 13th May
- Darker shading indicate areas with a higher viral concentration.
- Higher concentration is associated with increased prevalence.

Variants of Concern



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Variants of Concern

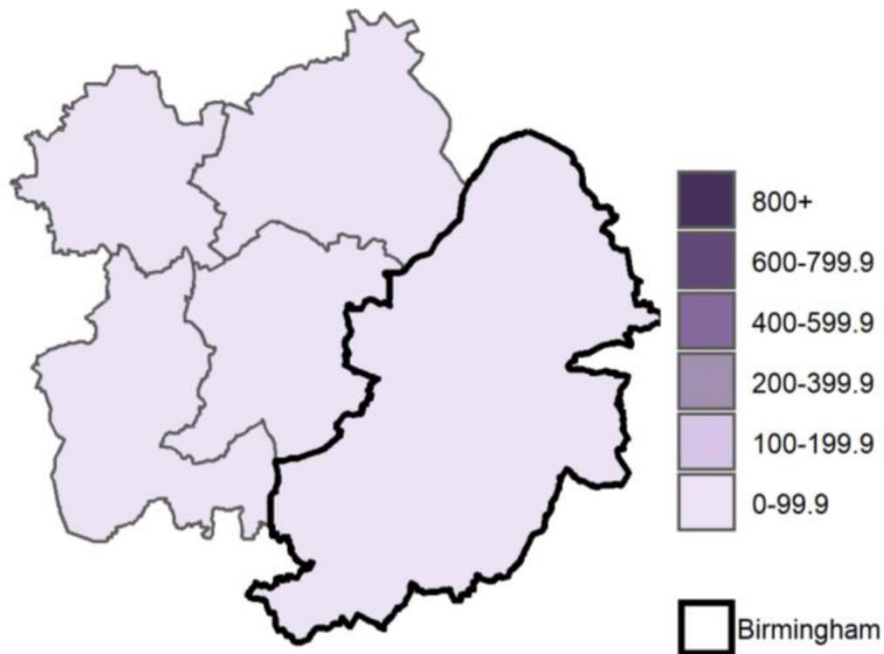
- Variants of Concern (VOC) are variants of Covid-19 that are more infectious, or have higher rates of hospitalisation or mortality, or are vaccine resistant or a combination of these.
- Variants of Interest (VOI) reflect potential of these but there is not enough data yet to conform the level of concern/risk.
- Key Variants of Concern
 - B.1.1.7 (UK/Kent) – majority of new case (although reducing proportionally)
 - B.351.1 (South African) – 26 cases
 - B.617.2 (Indian) – 43 cases
 - P1 (Brazil) – One case

Current VOC Situations

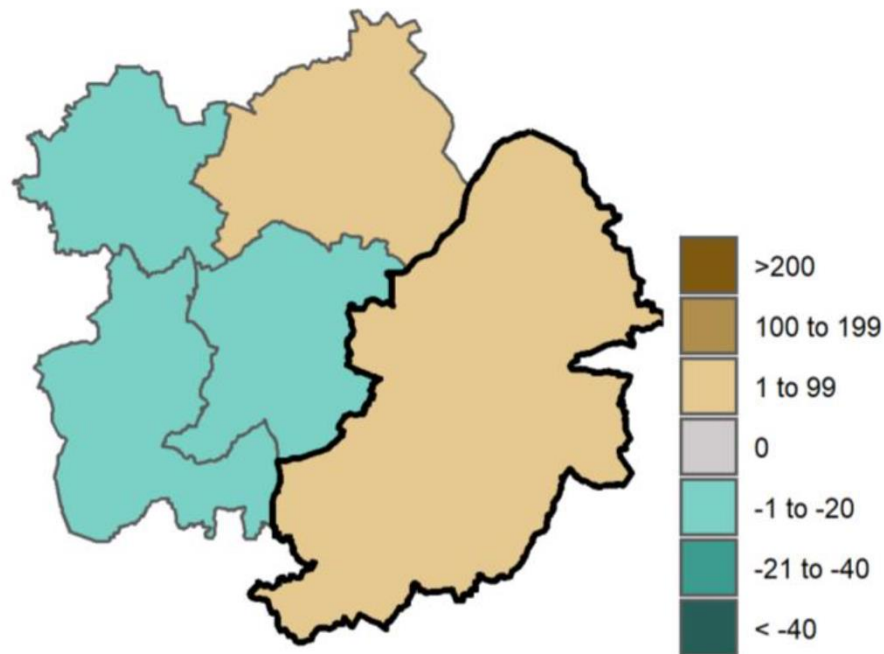
- S-gene positive - indirect marker of B.617.2 (Indian) and B.351 (SA) VOCs
- Nearly half of cases (46.5%) have been tested for S-Gene
- 63.2% of these were S-gene positive
- 133 S-gene positive cases between 06/05/21 and 19/05/21
- Cases are dispersed across B'ham
- Cluster of cases in Hall Green North
- Higher rates in Hodge Hill and Lozells

Case rate of COVID-19 per 100K per week in most recent 7 day reporting period (May 13-May 19, 2021) and absolute change since May 6-May 12, 2021) for LTLA near Birmingham

**Case rate per 100,000
13 May to
19 May 2021**



**Rate change between
06 May to 12 May and
13 May to 19 May 2021**



Our Response

- Expedite 2nd dose (within 8 weeks) vaccination
- Pop-up vaccination clinics
- Focussed surge testing in response to linked clusters
- Enhanced contact tracing
- Focussed communications and engagement
- EHO enforcement

Note: Birmingham currently on government 'watch list'

Testing



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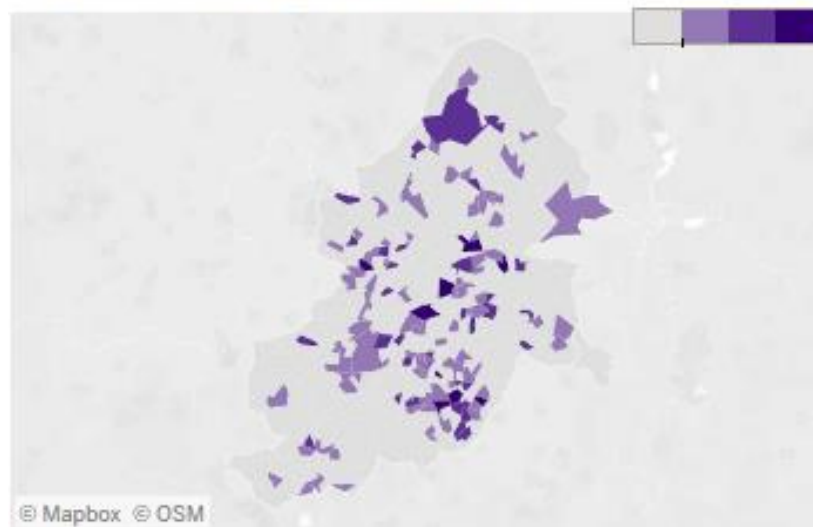


PCR Testing (Pillar 2) by LSOA: 7 Days up to 23rd May 2021

7-day rate of total Pillar 2 tests LSOA
(per 100K population) Range 0.2K to 13.4K



7-day rate of positive Pillar 2 tests LSOA
(per 100K population) Range 0.0 to 325.4

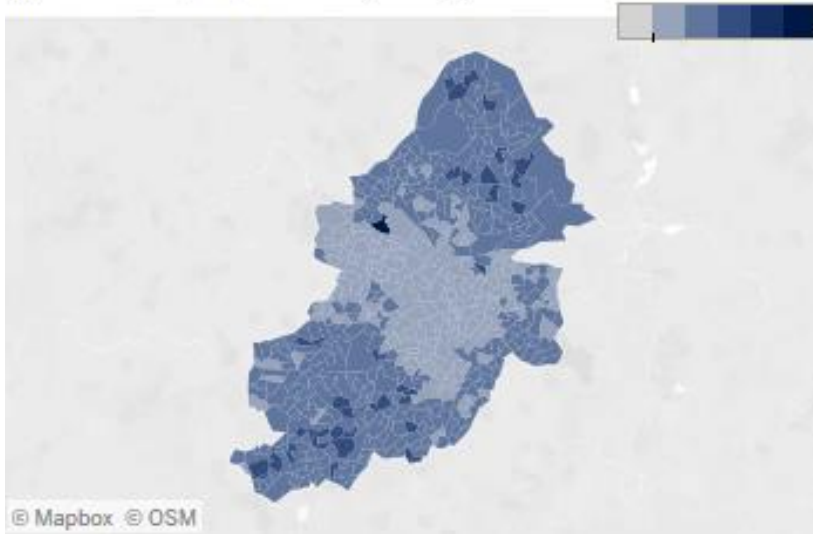


Lateral Flow Test Locations

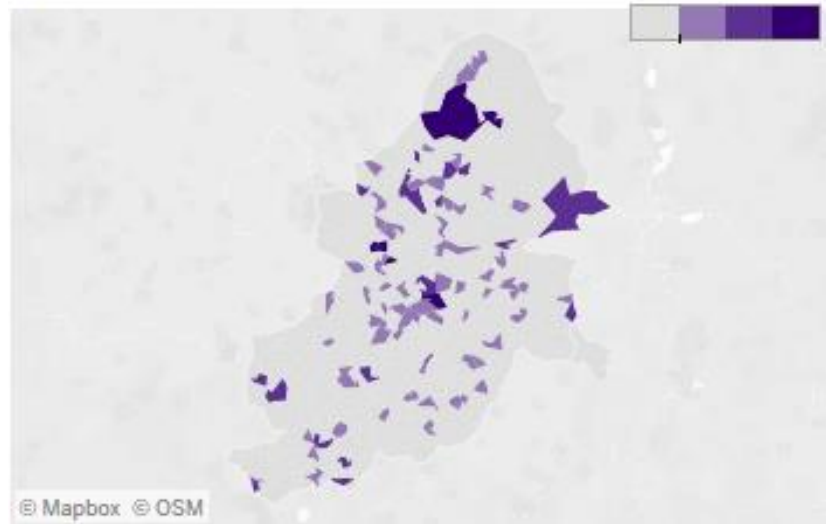
- **Lateral flow testing and collection sites have now closed.**
 - in line with the national move to home testing.
 - home testing kits can be ordered from gov's website,
- **Testing available at a network of community pharmacies**
 - 104 pharmacy community testing sites currently live.
- **Pop up collection sites - continue to operate**
- **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Inclusion Pilot:**
 - engaged with homeless organisations to enable homeless citizens to collect and undertake regular LFD tests.

Lateral Flow Testing (Pillar 2) by LSOA: 7 Days up to 23rd May 2021

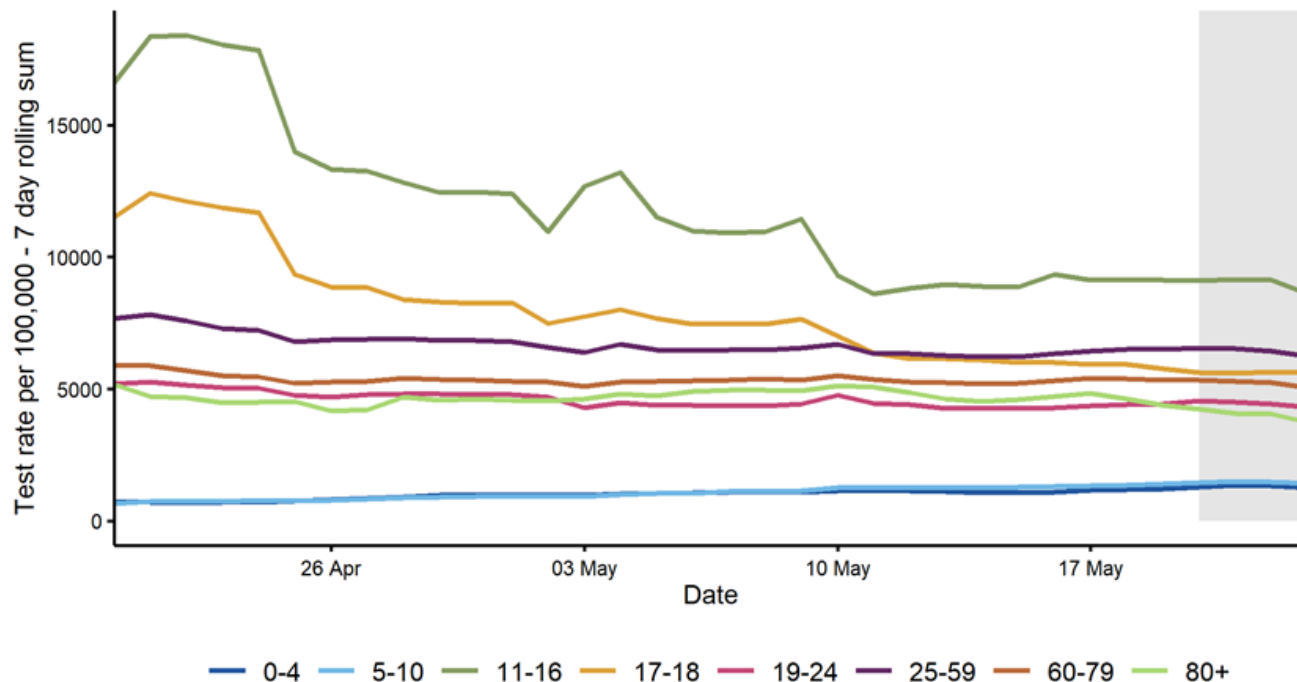
7-day rate of total Pillar 2 tests LSOA
(per 100K population) Range 1.2K to 23.8K



7-day rate of positive Pillar 2 tests LSOA
(per 100K population) Range 0.0 to 199.1



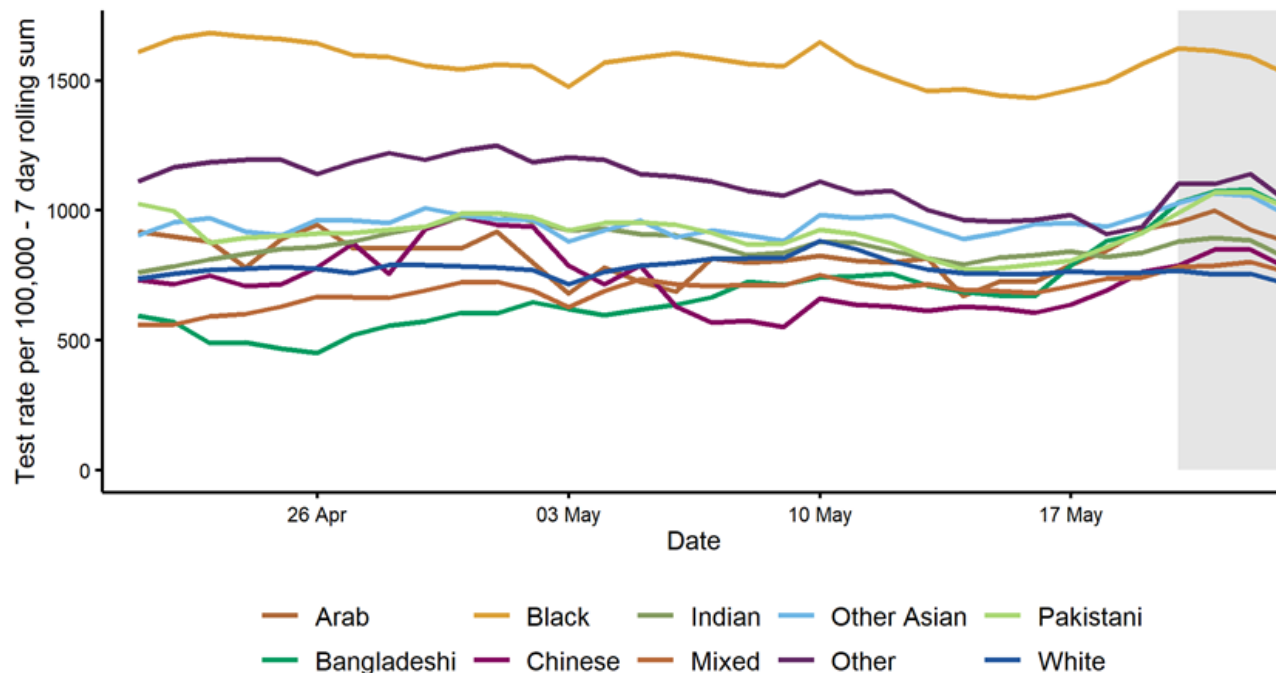
Age-Specific 7-Day Rolling Pillar 1 & 2 Test Rates per 100,000 Population Among Residents of Birmingham: 20th April to 23rd May 2021



4 most recent days excluded due to reporting delays

Excluding 1492 tests with missing age data.

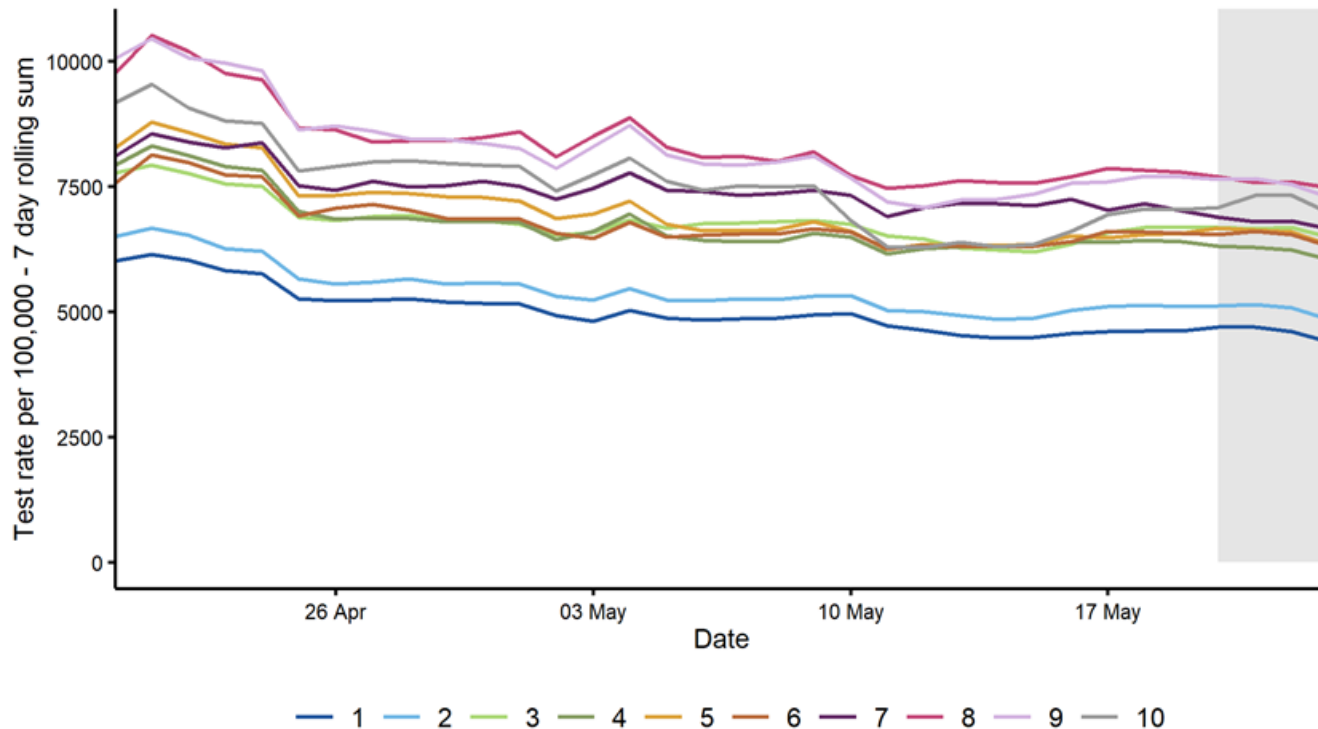
Ethnicity-Specific 7-Day Rolling Pillar 2 Test Rates per 100,000 Population Among Birmingham Residents: 20th April to 23rd May 2021



4 most recent days excluded due to reporting delays

Excluding 243767 pillar 2 tests with missing ethnicity data.

Index of Multiple Deprivation-Specific 7-Day Rolling Pillar 1 & 2 Test Rates per 100,000 Population Among Birmingham Residents: 20th April to 23rd May 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



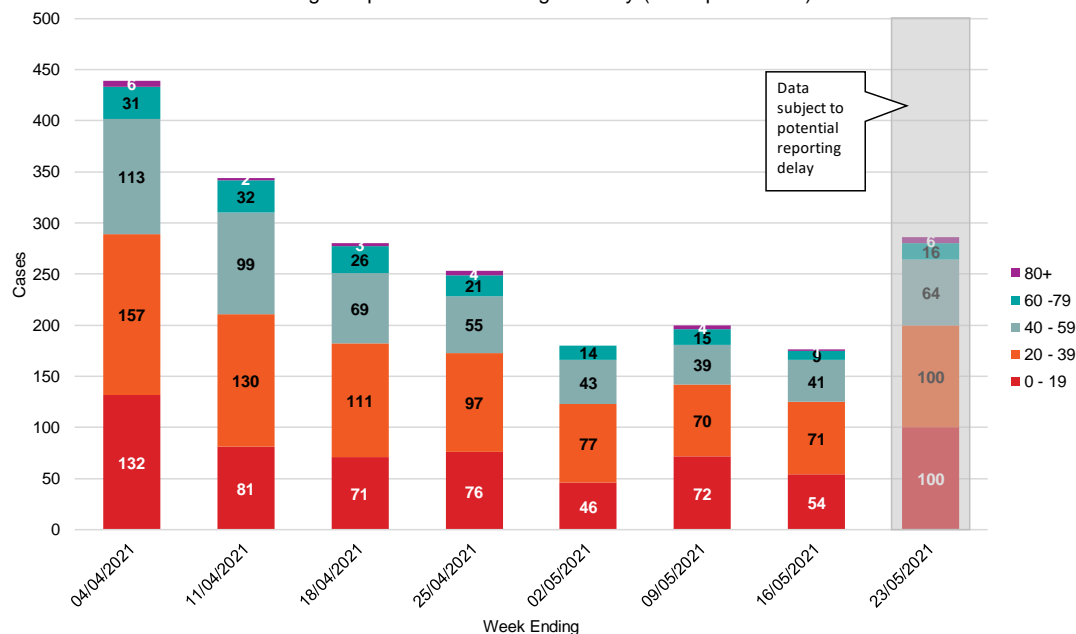
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Cases by Week & Age Group

COVID-19 Birmingham Cases by Week & Age Group
Week Ending 4th April to Week Ending 23rd May (incomplete week)

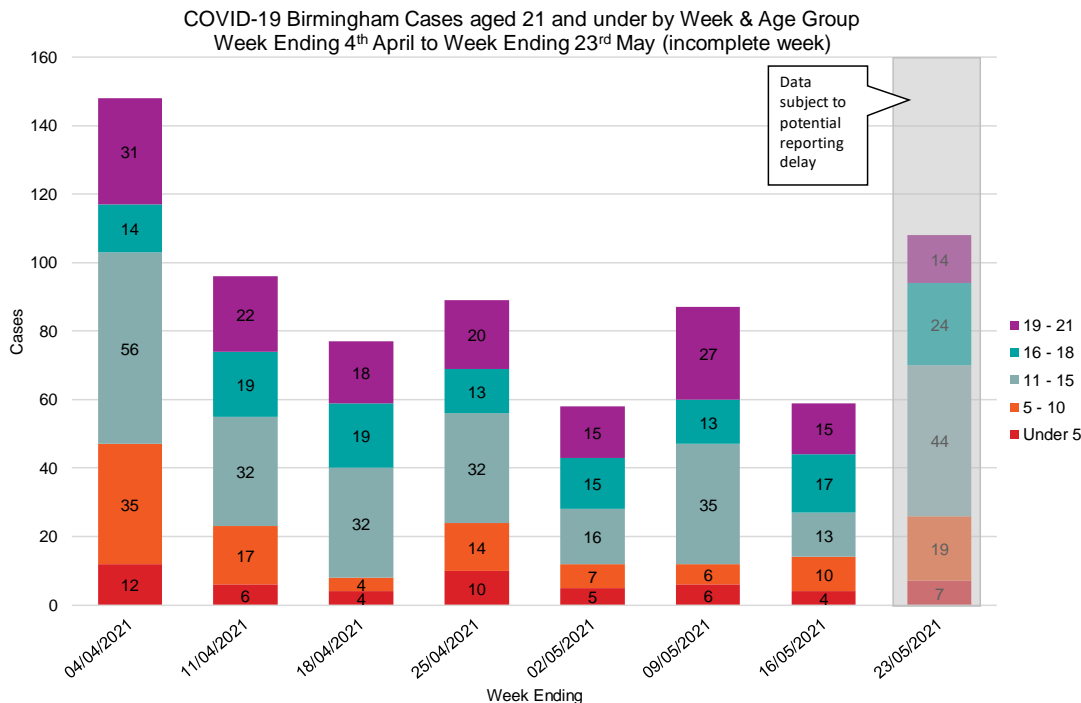
- Overall, case numbers have fallen in all age groups since the start of National Lockdown.
- However there currently seems to be a rise in positive cases, the 20-39 & 0-19 age group accounts for the highest number of positive cases.
- Comparing week ending 23/05/21 to the previous week, there has been a 40% rise in cases for those aged 20-39 and 85% rise in cases for those aged 0-19.



Cases for week ending 23rd May 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.

Cases in Children & Young Adults

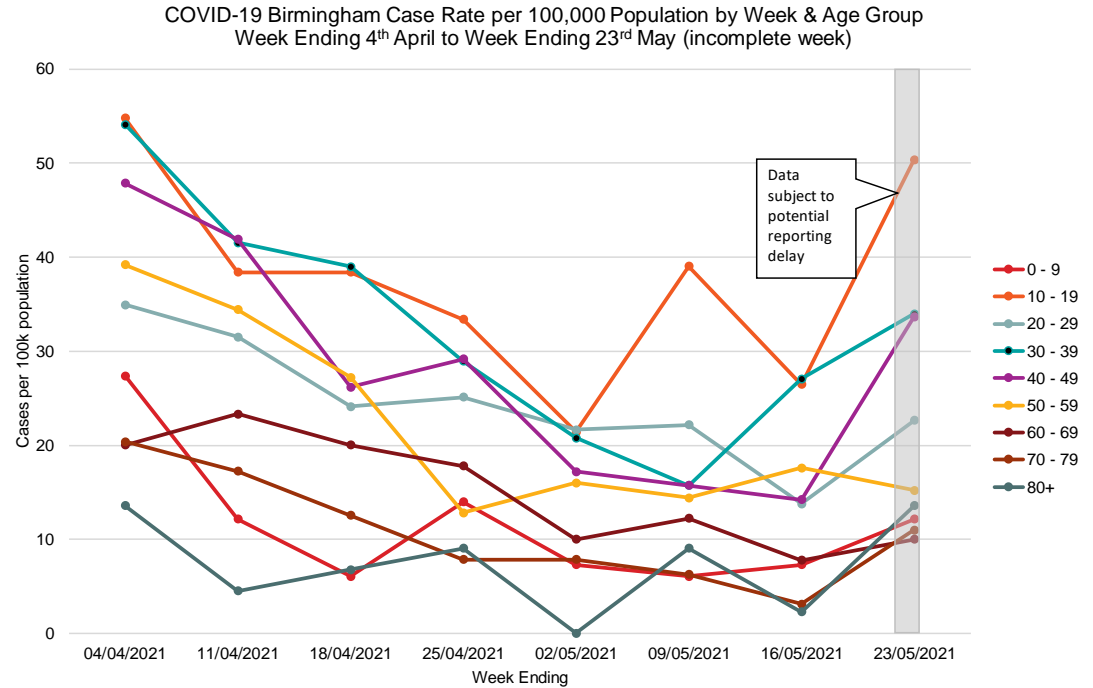
- Overall, case numbers in young adults and children have fallen since the peak in January 2021.
- However case numbers are beginning to rise; comparing week ending 23/05/21 to the previous week, cases in the 11 – 15 age group have risen by 238%.



Cases for week ending 23rd May 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.

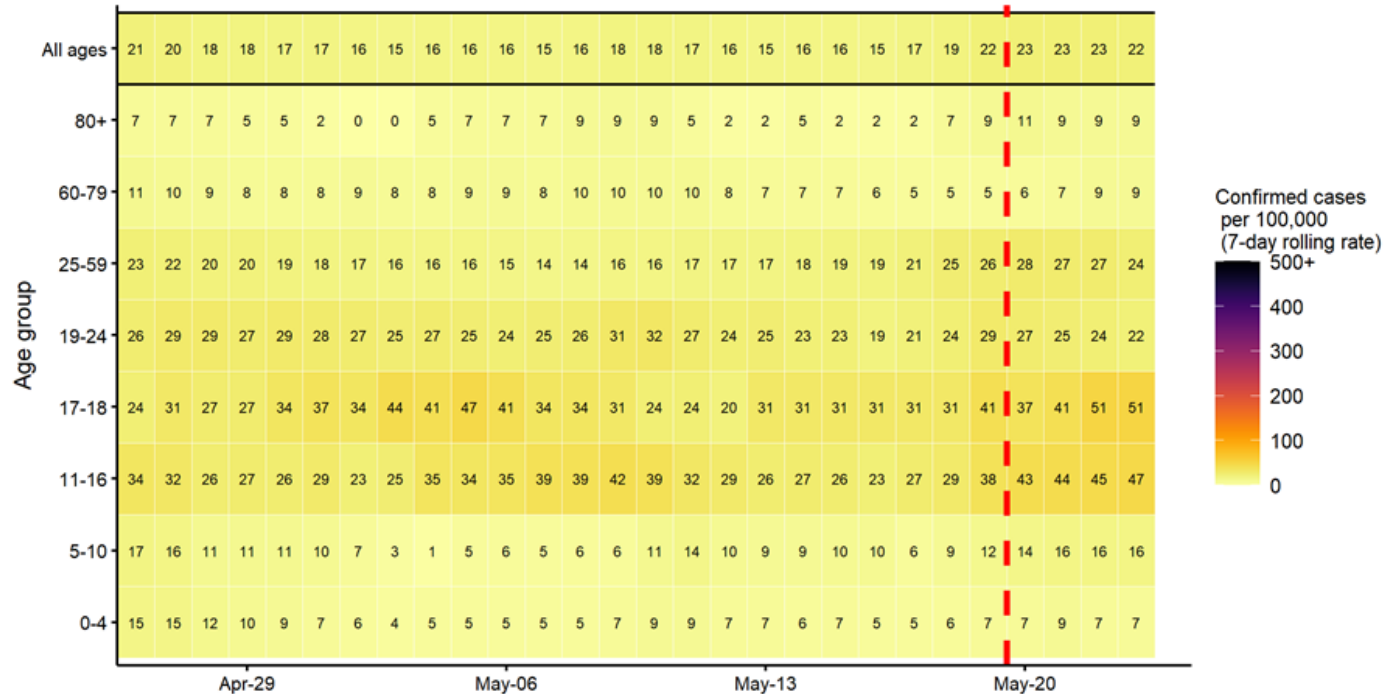
Case Rates by Age

- After schools reopened for pupils on 8th March, case rates for ages 0-9 and 10-19 increased, then fell again over the Easter break.
- However, as lockdown has eased, case rates have increased noticeably in the 10-19 and 40-49 age group, in the week ending 23/05/21.



Cases for week ending 23rd May 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.

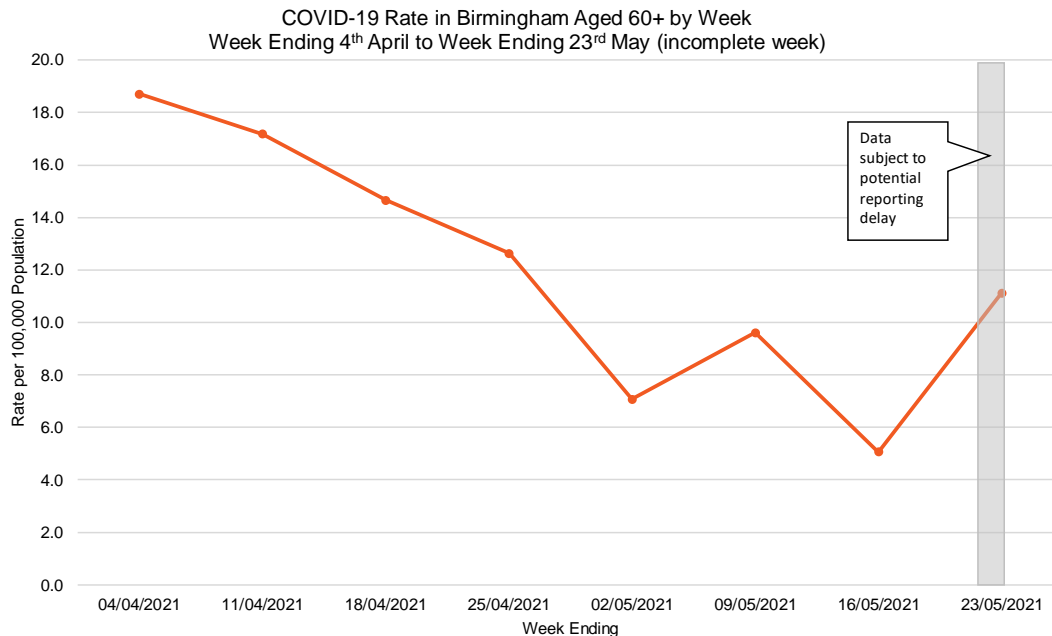
Age-Specific 7-Day Rolling Case Rates per 100,000 Population in Birmingham: 26th April to 23rd May 2021



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

Case Rate in Population aged 60+

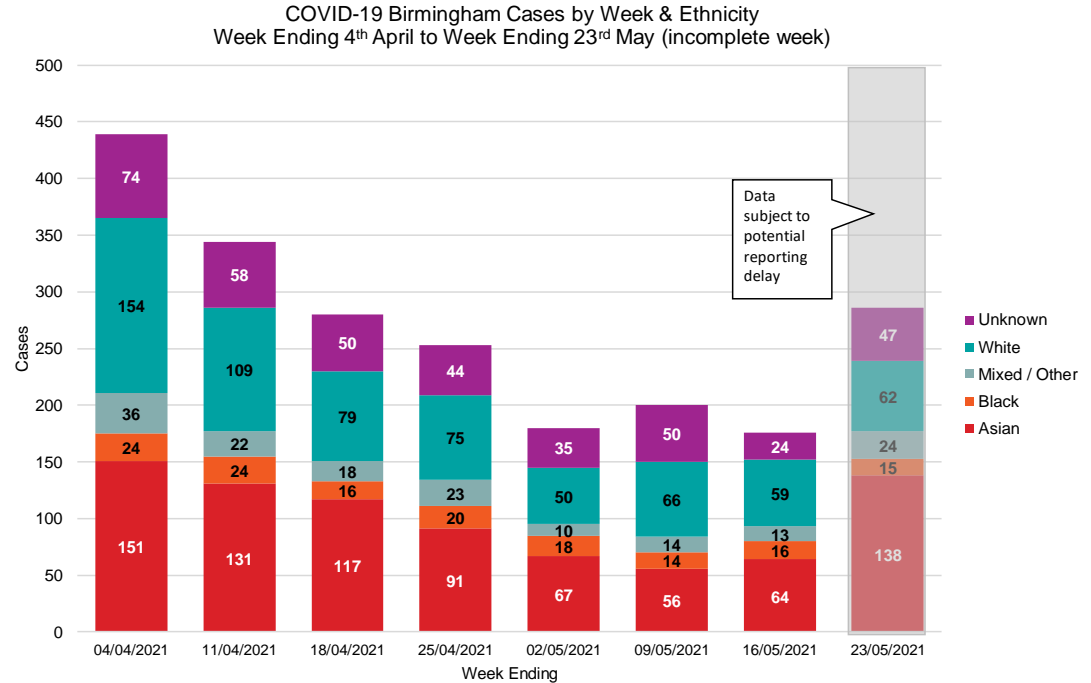
- Since the start of the National Lockdown on 5th January 2021, the rate of positive cases in the 60+ age group has decreased significantly.
- Low case rates are linked to lower hospital admissions and mortality. A further decrease is expected as vaccination uptake continues to increase.
- As at the week ending 23/05/2021, case rates in those aged 60+ are beginning to rise.



Cases for week ending 23rd May 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.

Cases by Week & Ethnicity

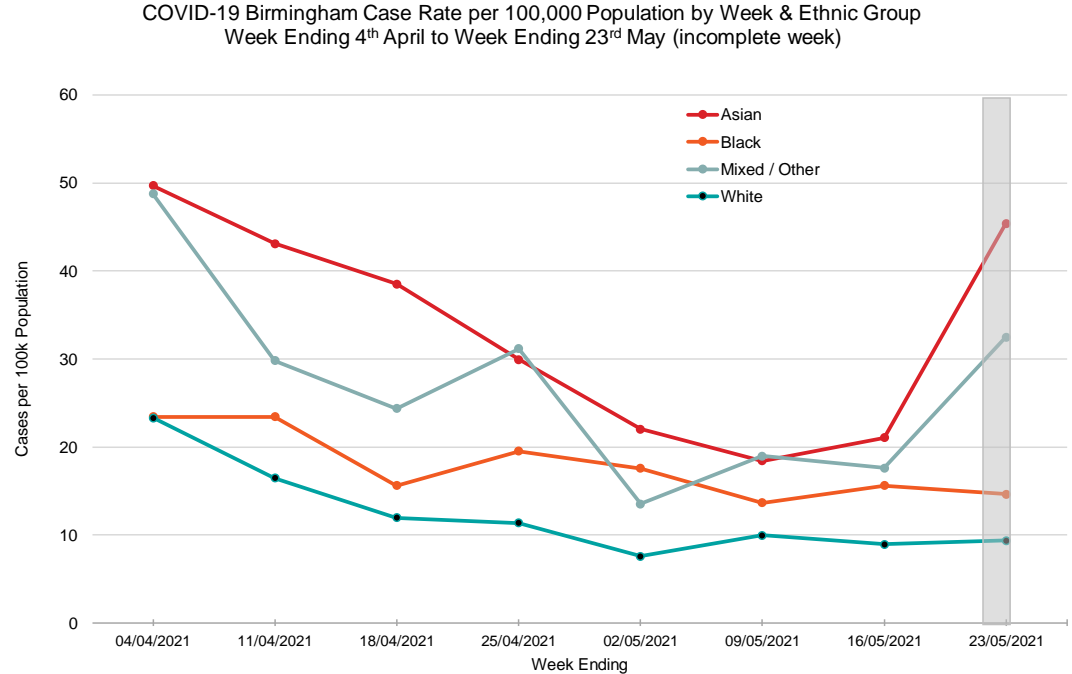
- Across all ethnic groups, case numbers have fallen since the start of National Lockdown, on 5th January 2021.
- Currently (week ending 23/05/2021) the Asian ethnic group accounts for the highest number of cases, followed by the White ethnic group.
- Since the start of the pandemic (1st March 2020), the long-term trend shows those from the White ethnic background have seen the highest proportion of cases over time.



Cases for week ending 23rd May 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.

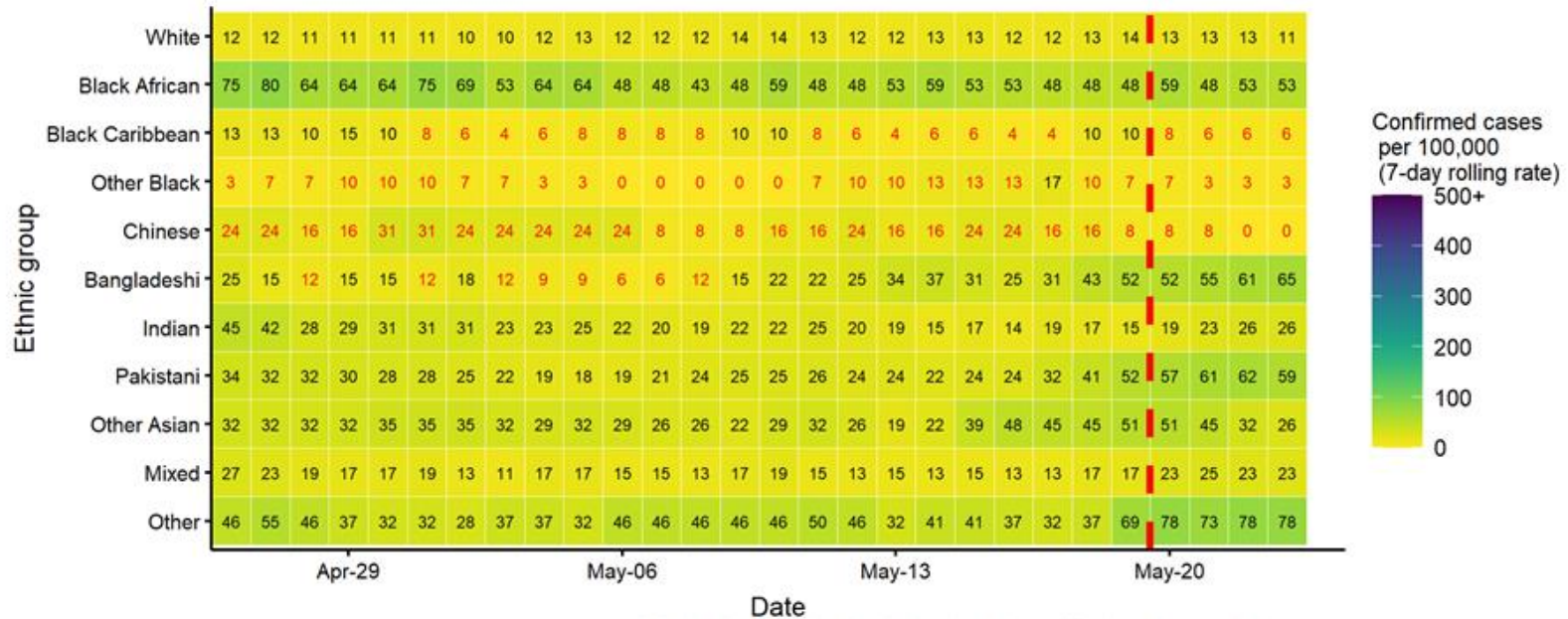
Case Rate by Ethnic Group

- Previous weeks have shown that the Asian ethnic group has experienced the highest positive case rates per 100,000 population.
- Currently, the lowest positive case rates are seen in the White ethnic group
- As of the week ending 23/05/2021, case rates in the Asian and Mixed ethnic group have risen significantly.



Cases for week ending 23rd May 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: 26th April to 23rd May 2021

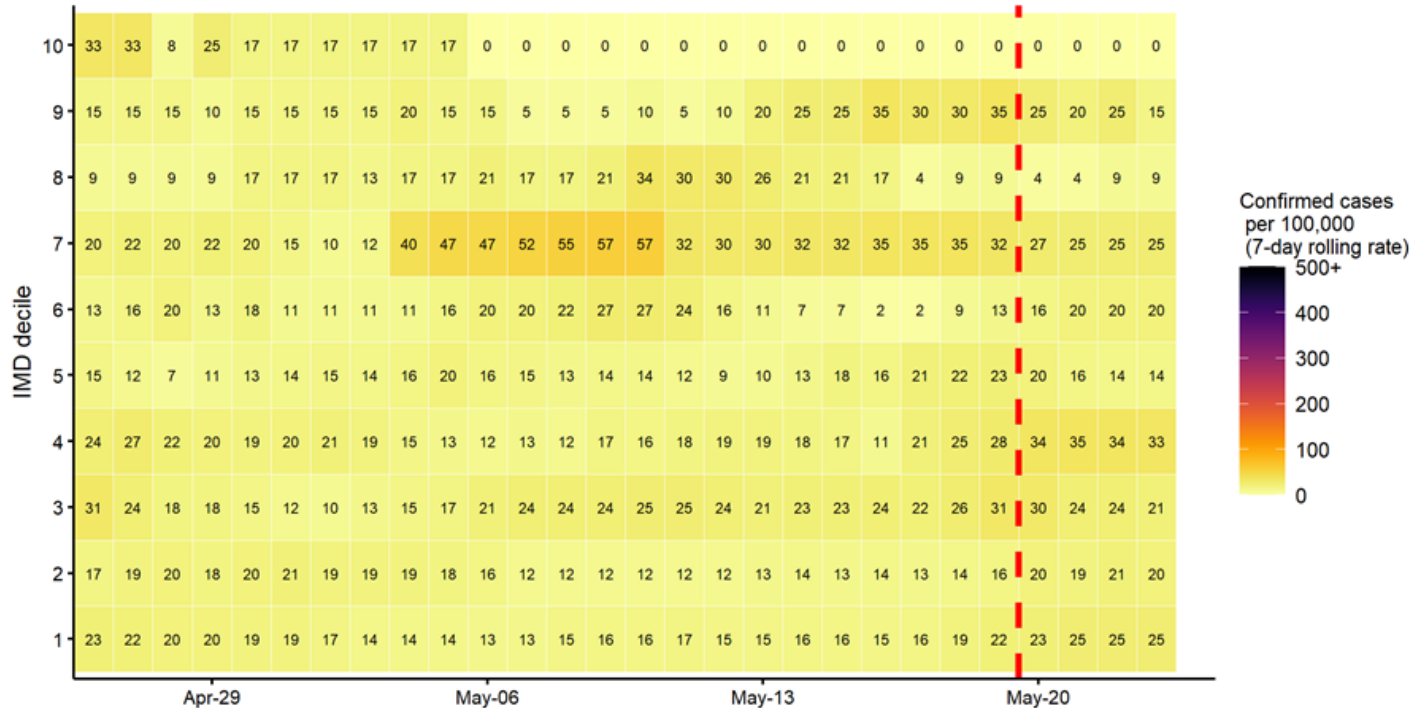


Excluding 4.8% ethnicity data classified as Na or Unknown.

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: 26th April to 23rd May 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



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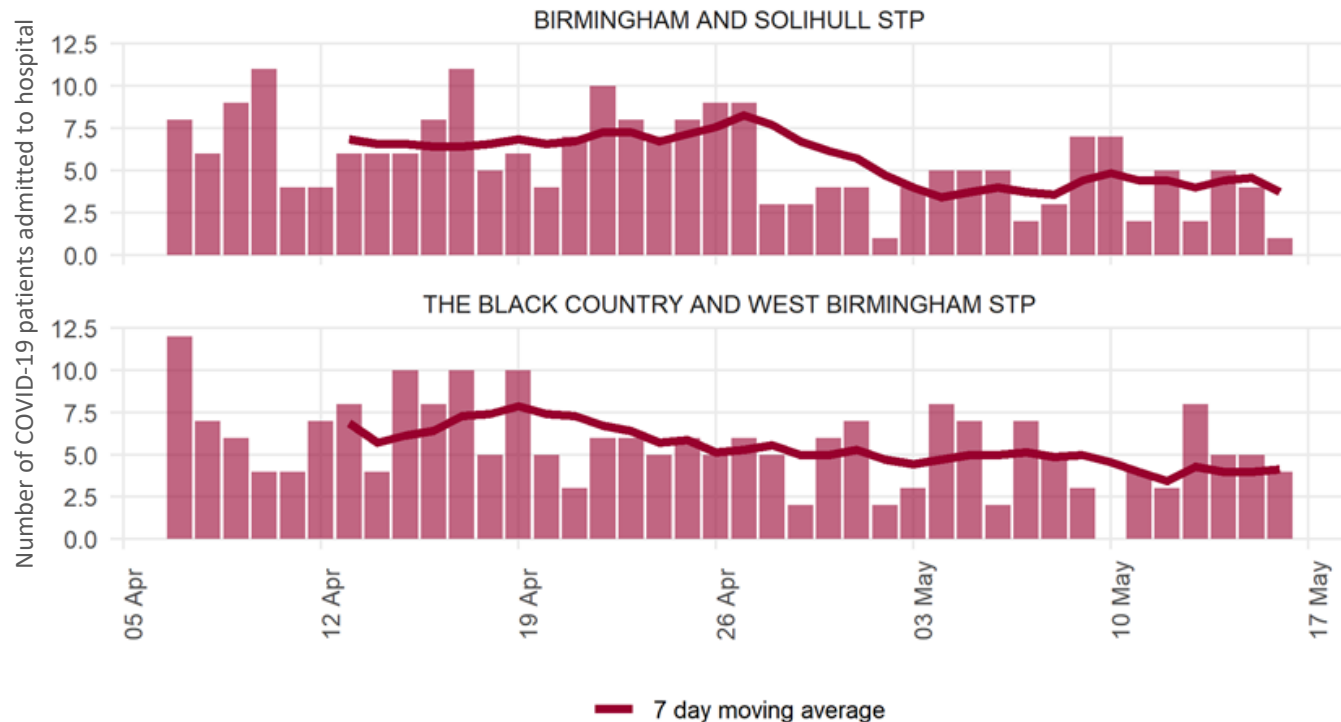


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Hospital Metrics Data

Hospital Trust	Covid - 19 Daily Admissions 16/05	Hospital in-patients 18/05	Patients on Mechanical Ventilation 18/05
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	0	23	3
Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	3	16	0
Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	1	0	0
Birmingham Women's & Children's NHS Foundation Trust	0	2	1
Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	0	1	0

Daily number of COVID-19 patients admitted to hospital in the Sustainability & Transformation Partnerships (STPs) associated with Birmingham, 7th April to 16th May, 2021



Deaths



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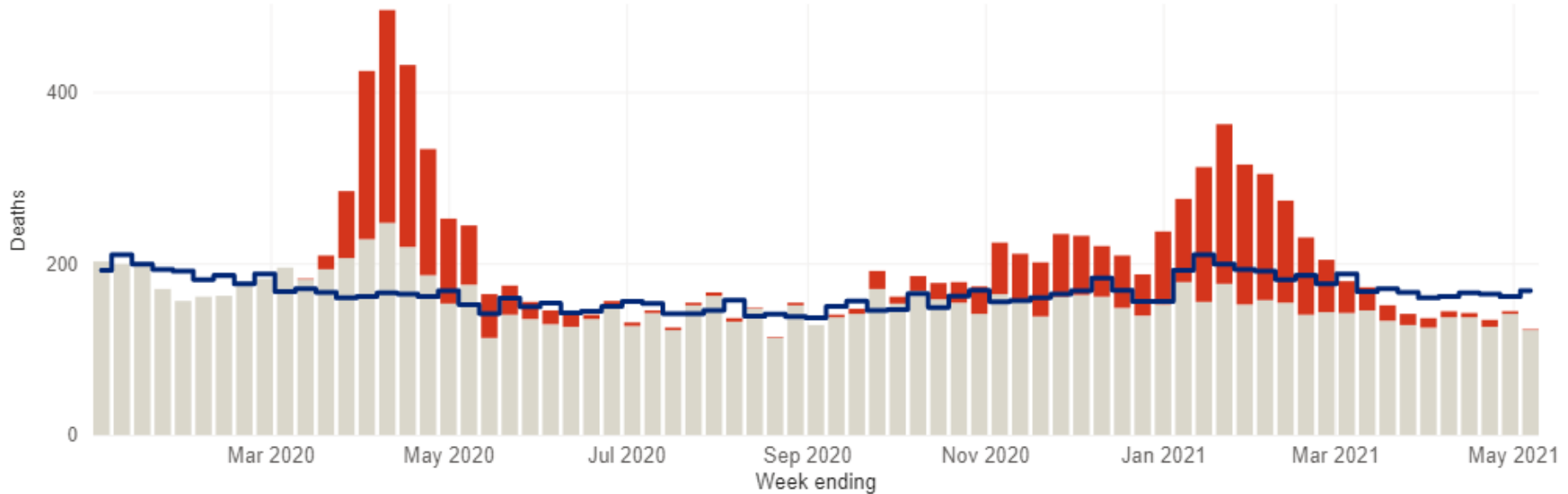
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Death Data

- Most recent death data, where death occurred within 28 days of a positive Covid-19 test
 - week ending the 23rd May no deaths.
- More accurate data based on Covid-19 being mentioned on the death certificate is more historical and the most recent week is that ending 7th May
 - 3 deaths registered in Birmingham. All deaths occurred in hospital.

Excess Death: All Deaths up to 7th May

● COVID-19 not mentioned ● COVID-19 mentioned — Average weekly deaths



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 ten reported weeks.

Situations



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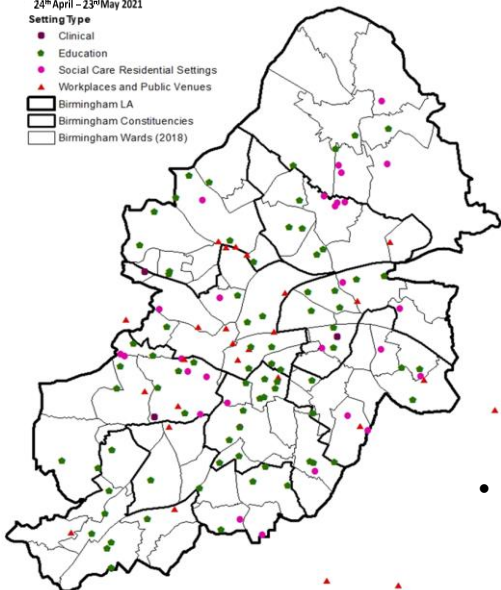
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Confirmed Situations in Birmingham: Last Month & Last 7 days

Situations by Setting Type

24th April – 23rd May 2021

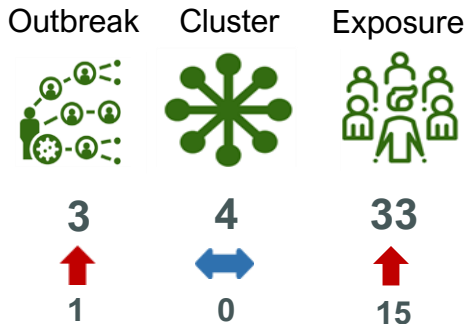
Setting Type



Produced by Birmingham Public Health Division (2021)
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*Map represents the last month.
One postcode can represent
more than one situation*

Type of Situation 17th – 23rd May 2021



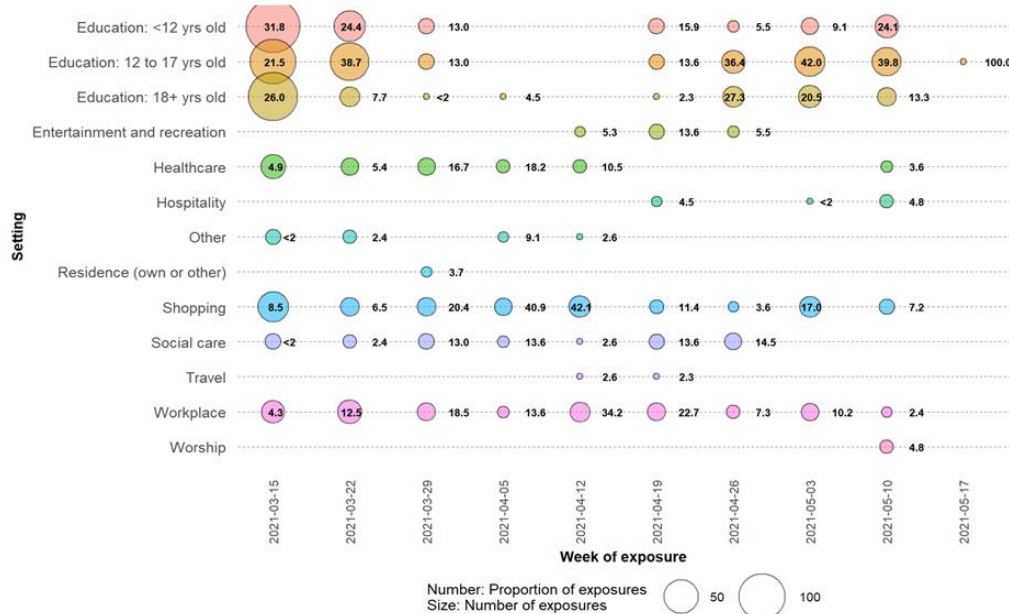
Numbers under the arrows show the overall change in situations

- In the week up to 23rd May, the number of situations has increased to 40, from 24 reported last week.
- Exposures have increased from 18 to 33.
- Outbreaks have increased by 1 to 3.
- Clusters have remained constant, with 4 reported this week.

- **Education** – accounts for 24 situations this week (60%), mainly Exposures (19), 1 outbreak, 4 clusters. This is 11 more than last week.
- **Social Care Residential** settings account for 3 of the situations this week, 1 exposure, and 2 Outbreaks. This is a decrease of 5 situations since last week.
- **Workplaces & Public Venues** account for 11 situations this week, (an increase of 7) reporting zero Clusters, 11 Exposures and zero Outbreaks.
- **Clinical settings** reported 2 situations this week (2 cases) in hospital staff
- **Other Residential** reported zero situations this week

Common Exposure Events Reported by Cases Resident in Birmingham*

Number & percentage of weekly exposures by setting: 15th March to 23rd May 2021



Data is grouped by 7 day period. The most recent 14 days may not have complete data yet.
Data: Common exposures line list from CTAS data, Public Health England.

*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. Data is grouped by 7 day period. The most recent 14 days may not have complete data yet.

- The number of common exposures identified has fallen in recent weeks.
- In the last reported week (17th May), **all common exposures occurred in Education, 12-17 yrs old settings.**
- Common exposures **are not** proof of transmission in a setting but provide evidence of where transmission **might** be taking place.

Contact Tracing



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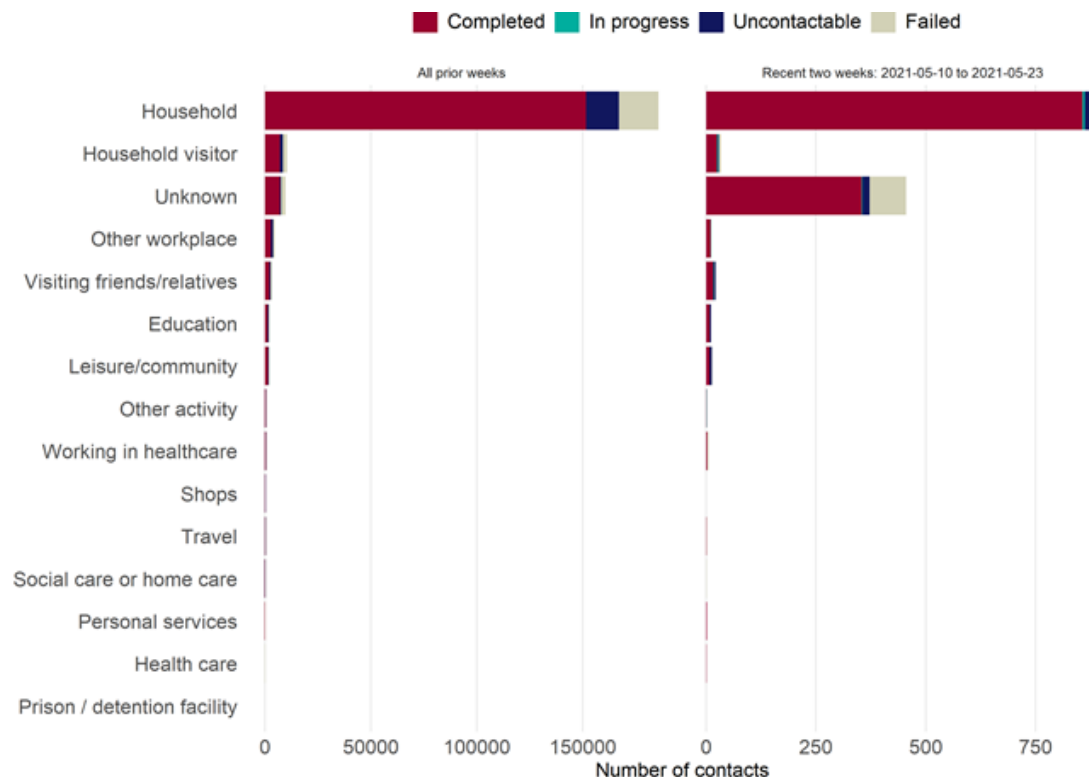


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Contact Tracing

- 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,
if necessary escalated to the Police.
- Total no. of positive cases in May = 622; completion rate of 87% with a local-0 target of 80%.
- 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) that is due to replace CTAS in 2021 (date to be confirmed).
- On April 6th, Birmingham joined the 'Local-0' pilot for 6 weeks.
 - All cases bypass the national team and come directly to the BCC trace team.
 - In May the decision was made to enter Local-0 into BAU and more LA's will be onboarded to the project.

Test & Trace Contacts by Exposure/Activity Setting & Current Outcome: 28th May 2020 to 23rd May 2021



- Over the past 2 weeks, the household category is the most common, followed by the unknown category.
- An increase in the unknown category has been observed in recent weeks, where data on exposure/activity setting were not provided.
- In the past two weeks, over 1,300 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



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COVID Champion Programme

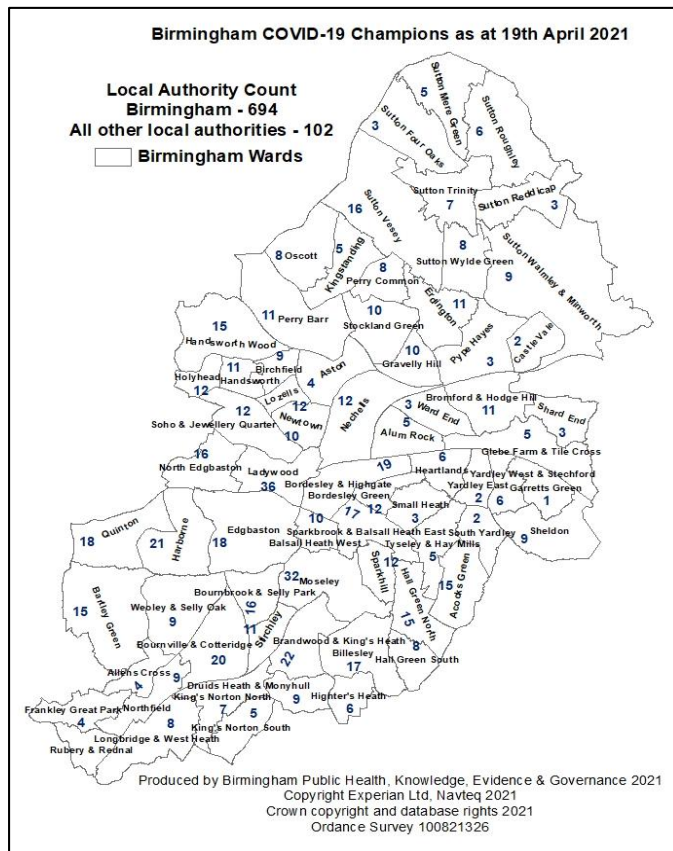
Coverage of champions across all 69 wards – at 24th May 2021

- 795 Community Champions + 15 Youth Champions.

Ongoing work:

- Analysis of representation at ward and demographic level to help develop a recruitment strategy.
- Current webinar themes: vaccination, mental health and grief support, twice weekly rapid testing.
- Thematic analysis of key themes (inbox, webinars & social media).
- Engagement via fortnightly webinars (next one 27th May).
- Vaccination Toolkit developed to support champions and their communities.
- 'You Said, We Did' – WhatsApp communication set-up.

Good representation of different religions and the LGBTQ community. More representation is needed for males, Bangladeshi & Caribbean communities, young people aged 18-30 years and people who consider themselves to have a disability.



Digital Engagement: March to May 2021



Social Media – Healthy Brum



Instagram

- Post engagements – 692
- Post reach – 17k

Facebook

- Post engagements – 614
- Post traffic (clicks) - 6.2k

Twitter

- Post engagements – 1.1k
- Post traffic (clicks) - 8.5k

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
- Information on surge testing
 - Letters to schools
- New guidance (roadmap)
- Physical Activity webinars

Tweetathon

First took place on 12th April 2021 #testandtwee

- Encourage take up of the universal home rapid lateral flow testing
- Coincide with the launch of Step 2 Roadmap out of lockdown
- 32 tweets
- 34k impressions
- 139 people engaged
- 287 clicks

2nd Tweetathon took place on 17th May to coincide with Step 3

Engagement with Faith Groups

Over the last month we have continued to:

- Meet with Birmingham Masjids on a weekly basis and co-produced local guidance to support them to operate in a COVID-19 safe way during Ramadan. We also continued to work with the Masjids during Ramadan and produced Itikaaf and safe Eid Guidance.
- 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, Ramadan and Eid.
- Increased social media messaging for Eid, encouraging the Muslim community to celebrate Eid safely.
- Present updates on how to get twice weekly tests and information on surge testing in the local area.

Our engagement includes:

- Ongoing dialogue with the groups about COVID-19 vaccination and some of the challenges faced by their respective congregations on issues such as vaccines, isolation, enforcement, testing, 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 and addressing misinformation.
- Seeking the support of faith groups to help with messaging about LFD home test kits and steps 1, 2 and 3 of the Roadmap.
- Sharing examples of materials and resources produced by faith groups on social media and other channels.
- Fortnightly meeting with places of worship in partnership with Environmental Health to support with operational issues, day to day communal worship, cleaning, risk assessments etc.

Provider Spotlight

Planning is underway working with BVSC (<https://www.bvsc.org/>) to deliver communications networks/telephone trees in conjunction with the other 17 commissioned community providers. This involves:

- Developing key messaging and identifying communication channels, tailored to varied audiences and the differing needs of communities.
- Delivering training to the community providers through workshops, to inform and share best practice.
- Creating procedures for disseminating Public Health messaging and alerts during crisis periods, signposting individuals and communities to useful information and available resources.
- Producing user guidance for distribution to support community providers.
- Supporting community partners to lead conversations with their communities to address any concerns about vaccination and addressing misinformation.
- Recruiting participants to engage with communication networks/telephone trees.
- Evaluation and monitoring impact using quantitative and qualitative methods.

Partnership engagement

Over the last month we have continued to:

- Raise awareness about universal lateral flow testing in partnership with the local Community Champions, community partners and the CCG.
- Support community partners to lead conversations with their communities to address any concerns about vaccination and addressing misinformation.
- Communicate and engage regarding VoC surge testing (SA variant) shared with businesses, workplaces, education settings, faith groups and via email newsletter to Community Champions.
 - Hold meetings and targeted webinars with these settings in affected wards/areas agreed for surge testing to answer questions and advise key stakeholders about logistics.
 - Share information via the settings and respond to any queries.
 - Provide useful information and links on webpages.
 - Share briefings with elected members.

Further Work in Development

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 during the COVID-19 pandemic, working with groups such as:

- **Businesses:** Working with key city-wide business groups across several 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.
- **Youth:** Working with the Youth Service team to co-produce engaging and relevant content with children and young people for them to distribute throughout their networks.
- **Vulnerable groups:** Increasing the range of accessible information for hard to reach and vulnerable groups to include people with learning difficulties, poor literacy and vulnerable families.

Priorities:

- Extending and strengthening 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 and to accelerate existing engagement to support understanding and the uptake of testing, vaccination, guidance, recovery and any emerging themes from April 2021 for 12 months.
- 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 and managing recovery.
- Explore effective ways to recruit and retain COVID Champions in the areas needed by using digital and off-line communications.
- Developing the service specification for three different projects based on vulnerable adults.
- Materials in progress:
 - Vaccination Toolkit with translations for the COVID Champions and Community Providers.
 - Isolation/support guidance and pack with translations for communities.

QUESTIONS



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