

# Birmingham

## Local Outbreak Engagement Board

### Covid-19 Overview

Birmingham Public Health Division

23/03/2021



# Overview



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

**Total deaths**  
(Data up to 22 Mar)

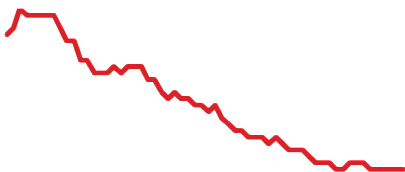
**2,632**

Latest daily figure

**1**

new deaths

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



Source: coronavirus.data.gov.uk

**Total cases**  
(Data up to 22 Mar)

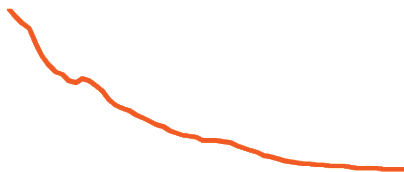
**99,098**

Latest daily figure

**105**

new cases

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



Source: coronavirus.data.gov.uk

**Hospital admissions**  
(Data up to 22 Mar)

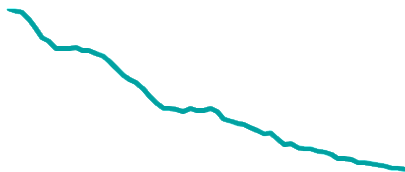
**17,707**

Latest daily figure

**11**

new admissions

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



Source: NHS COVID-19 Situation  
Operational Dashboard

**Over 60's cases**  
(Data up to 20 Mar)

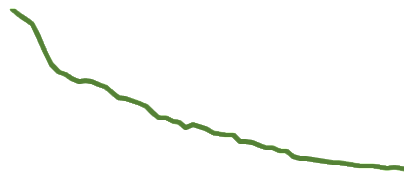
**15,237**

Latest daily figure

**3**

60+ new cases

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



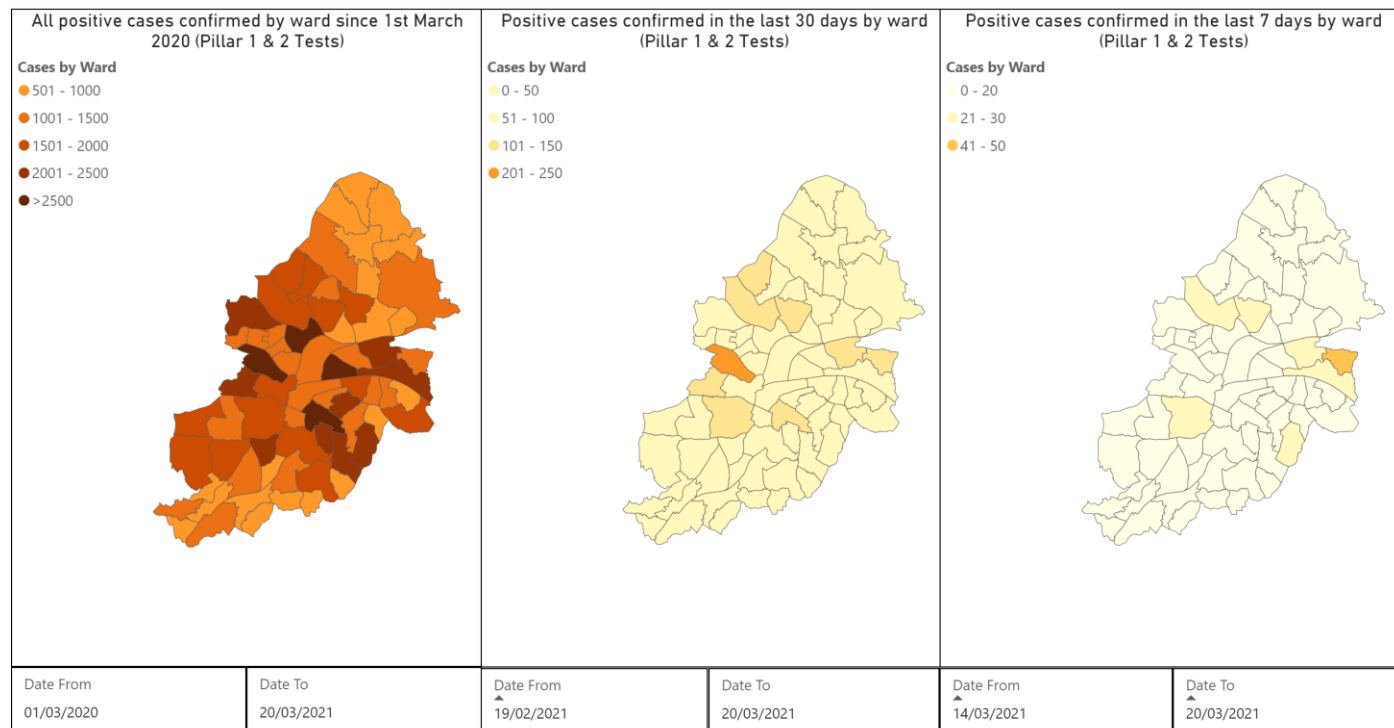
Source: PHE

# Testing & Cases Summary: 7 Days up to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021

- 7 Day Rolling Case Rate to 20<sup>th</sup> March (pillar 1 & 2) 70.2/100K
  - Rate on 13<sup>th</sup> March 74.4/100K
  - Ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the West Midlands region, with Sandwell ranked 1<sup>st</sup> (86.1/100K)
- 7 Day Pillar 2 PCR testing rate at 20<sup>th</sup> March 1,646/100K
  - Rate of testing on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1,703/100K
  - Ranked 13<sup>th</sup> highest in the region
- 7 Day lateral flow testing rate at 20<sup>th</sup> March 11,173/100K
  - Ranked 14<sup>th</sup> highest in the region
- % of Pillar 2 positive PCR tests at 20<sup>th</sup> March 3.9%
  - Rate on 13<sup>th</sup> March 3.8%
- % of positive lateral flow tests at 20<sup>th</sup> March 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 (2021-03-04 to 2021-03-10)		Most recent week (2021-03-11 to 2021-03-17)		Change between last two weeks		
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	%	Absolute difference *	
Shard End	29	238.4	45	369.9	55	131.5	→
Handsworth	8	63.9	21	167.9	162	104.0	↑
Pype Hayes	11	102.2	15	139.3	36	37.1	→
Tyseley & Hay Mills	8	63.8	17	135.5	112	71.7	→
Brandwood & King's Heath	10	53.0	25	132.4	149	79.4	↑
Bromford & Hodge Hill	26	118.7	26	118.7	0	0.0	→
Balsall Heath West	11	91.6	14	116.6	27	25.0	→
Garretts Green	7	65.3	12	111.9	71	46.6	→
Frankley Great Park	21	177.5	13	109.9	-38	-67.6	→
Ward End	19	138.6	15	109.4	-21	-29.2	→

Handsworth and Brandwood & King's Heath saw significant increase in case rates between the most recent week and the prior week. However, 6 wards showed a statistically significant decrease.

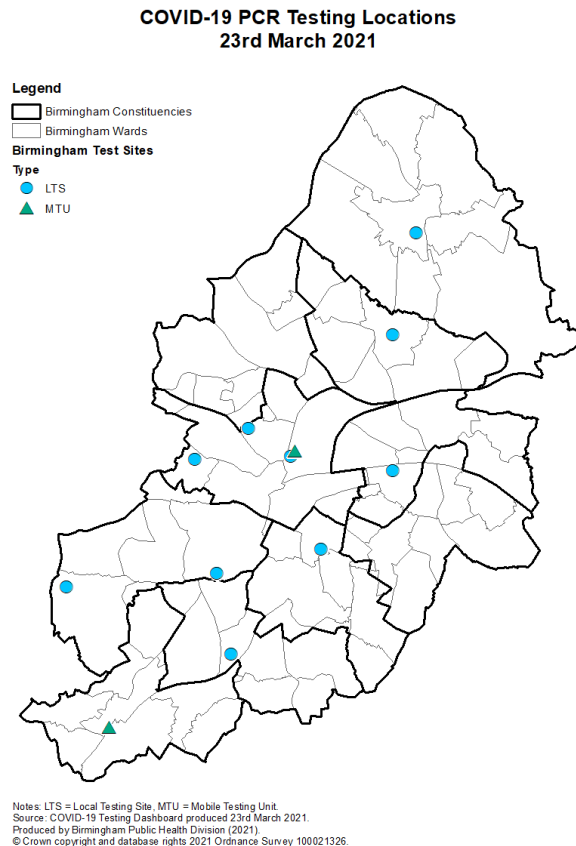
*\*Relative change arrow based on incidence rate ratio p value <0.05*

# Testing



# PCR Test by Test Site Locations

- There are currently 2 active drive in mobile testing unit (MTU) sites:
  - Bristol Road South, Longbridge
  - Aston University
- 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



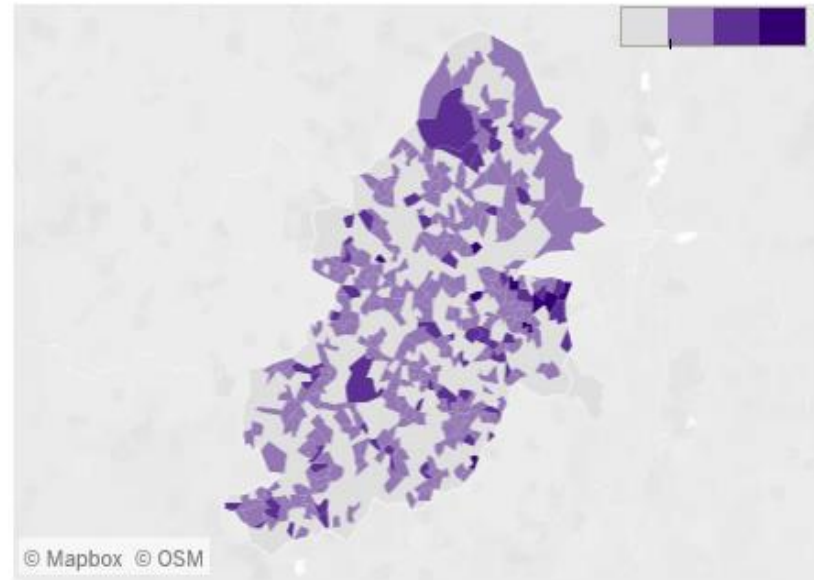


# PCR Testing (Pillar 2) by LSOA: 7 Days up to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021

7-day rate of total Pillar 2 tests LSOA  
(per 100K population) Range 0.4K to 7.6K



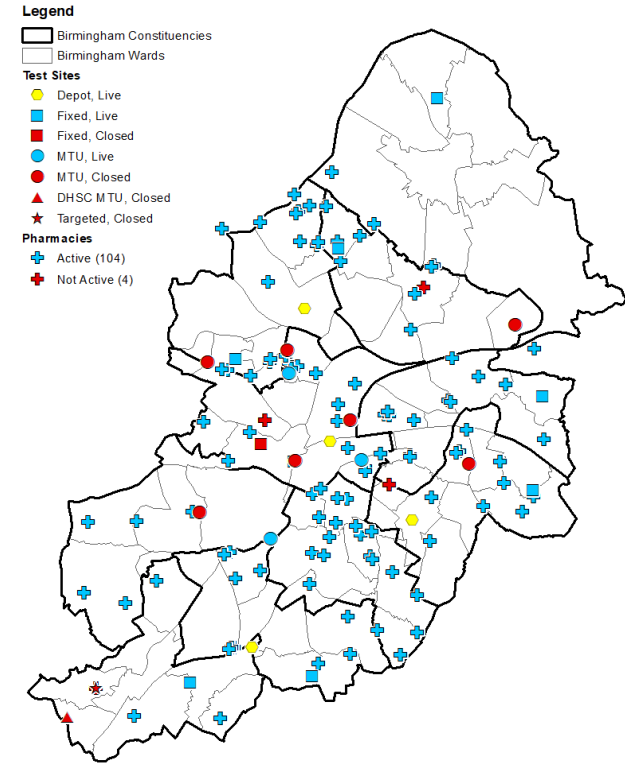
7-day rate of positive Pillar 2 tests LSOA  
(per 100K population) Range 0.0 to 567.8



# Lateral Flow Test Locations

- Lateral flow testing is currently available at 7 fixed sites and 3 mobile sites along with over 100 pharmacies across Birmingham.
- Details of the locations and an interactive map can be found here:  
[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50231/coronavirus\\_covid-19/2308/covid-19\\_lateral\\_flow\\_device\\_lfd\\_testing\\_information](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50231/coronavirus_covid-19/2308/covid-19_lateral_flow_device_lfd_testing_information)
- Mobile sites are available at the following locations this week:
  - Birmingham City Football Club
  - The Lighthouse, Aston
  - Cannon Hill Park

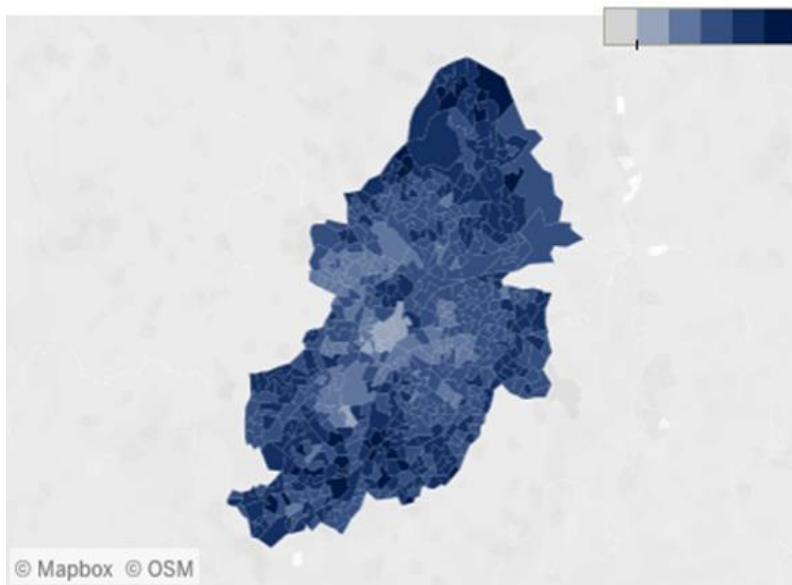
## Birmingham Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Test Locations 23rd March 2021



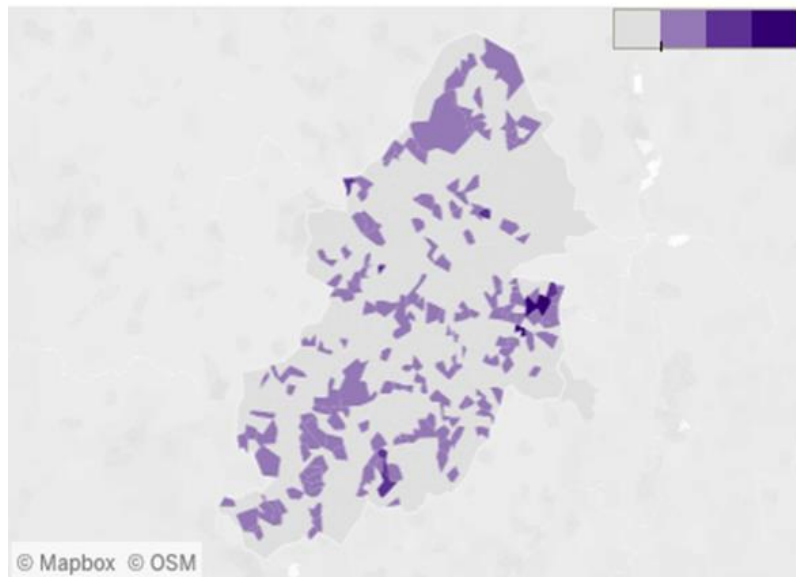
Source: Central Health Solutions produced 23rd March 2021.  
Produced by Birmingham Public Health Division (2021).  
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# Lateral Flow Testing (Pillar 2) by LSOA: 7 Days up to 20<sup>th</sup> March

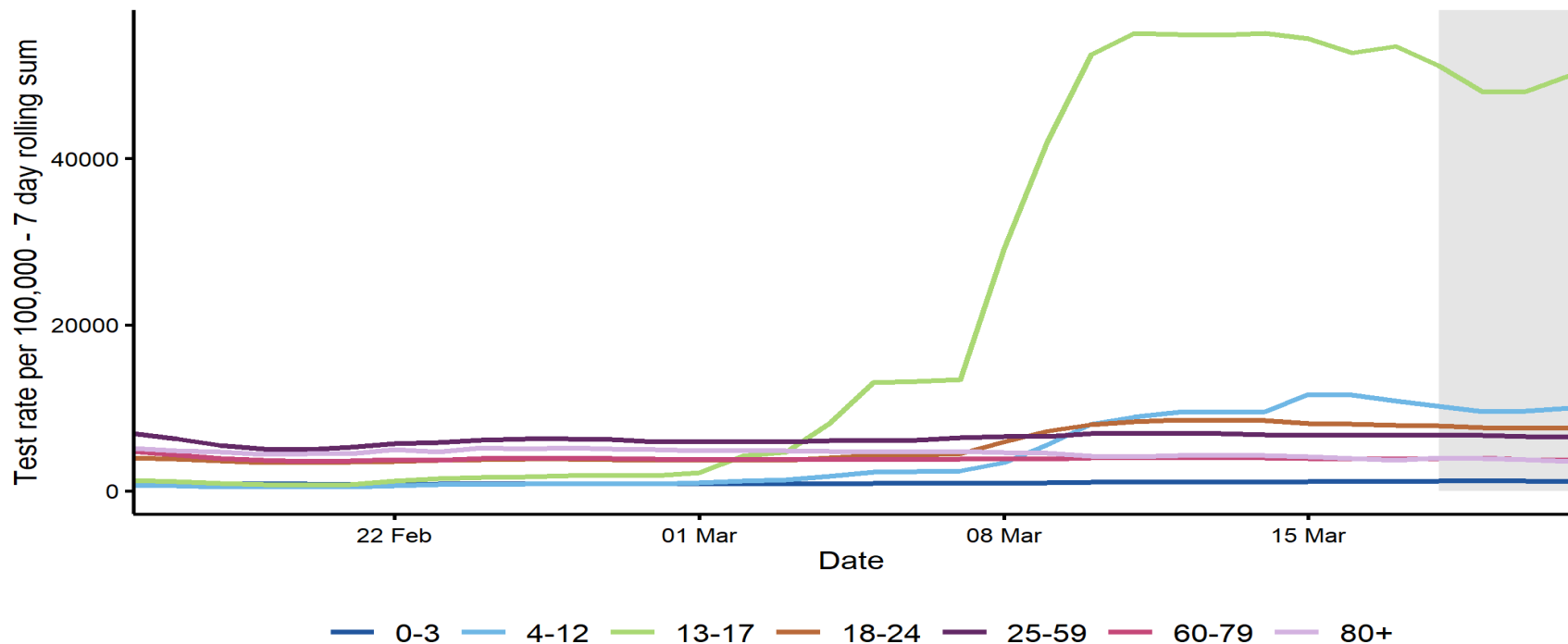
7-day rate of total Pillar 2 tests LSOA  
(per 100K population) Range 2.5K to 21.0K



7-day rate of positive Pillar 2 tests LSOA  
(per 100K population) Range 0.0 to 447.0



# Age-Specific 7-Day Rolling Pillar 1 & 2 Test Rates per 100,000 Population Among Residents of Birmingham: 16<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021\*



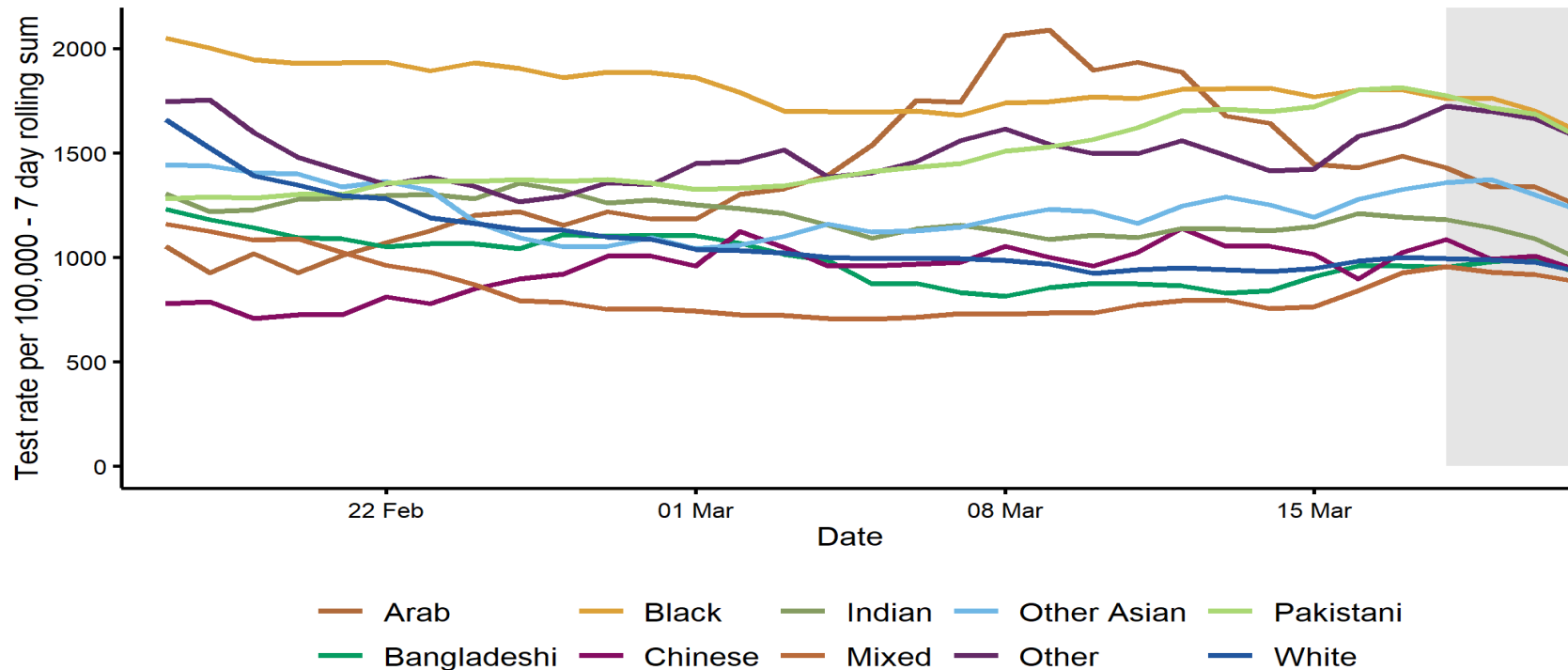
Excluding 143 tests with missing age data.

\* 4 most recent days excluded due to reporting delays

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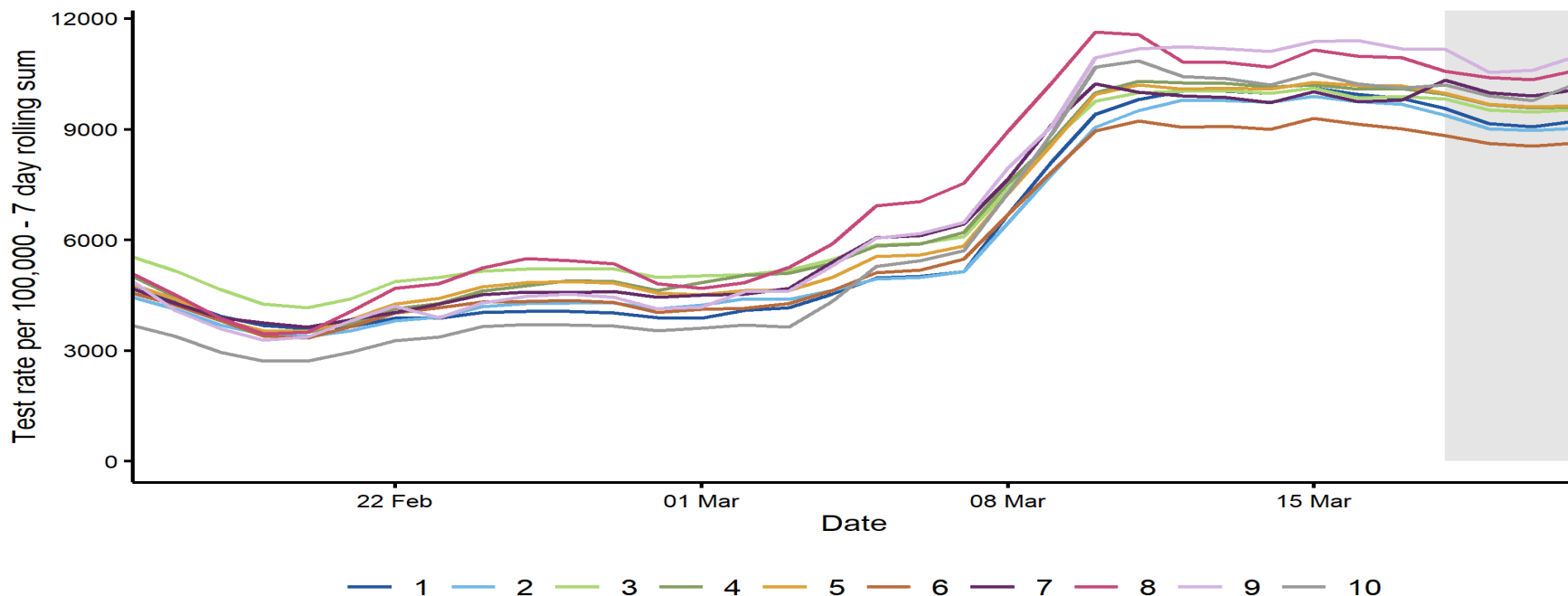


# Ethnicity-Specific 7-Day Rolling Pillar 1 & 2 Test Rates per 100,000 Population Among Birmingham Residents: 16<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021\*



\* 4 most recent days excluded due to reporting delays. Excludes 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: 16<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> March 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

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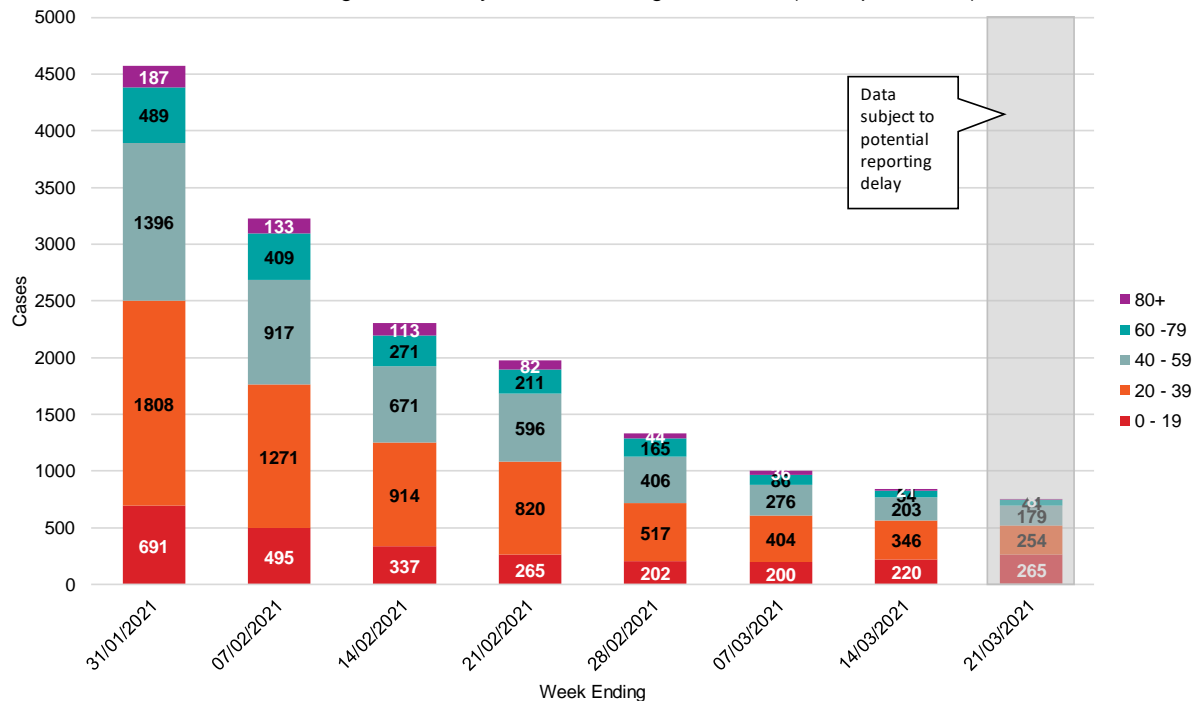
# Case Demographics



# Cases by Week & Age Group

COVID-19 Birmingham Cases by Week & Age Group  
Week Ending 31st January to Week Ending 21st March (incomplete week)

- Case numbers have fallen in all age groups since the start of National Lockdown.
- Previously, the 20- 39 age group had the highest case numbers. They were overtaken during the last week by the 0 – 19 age group after about 20.5% rise in cases.



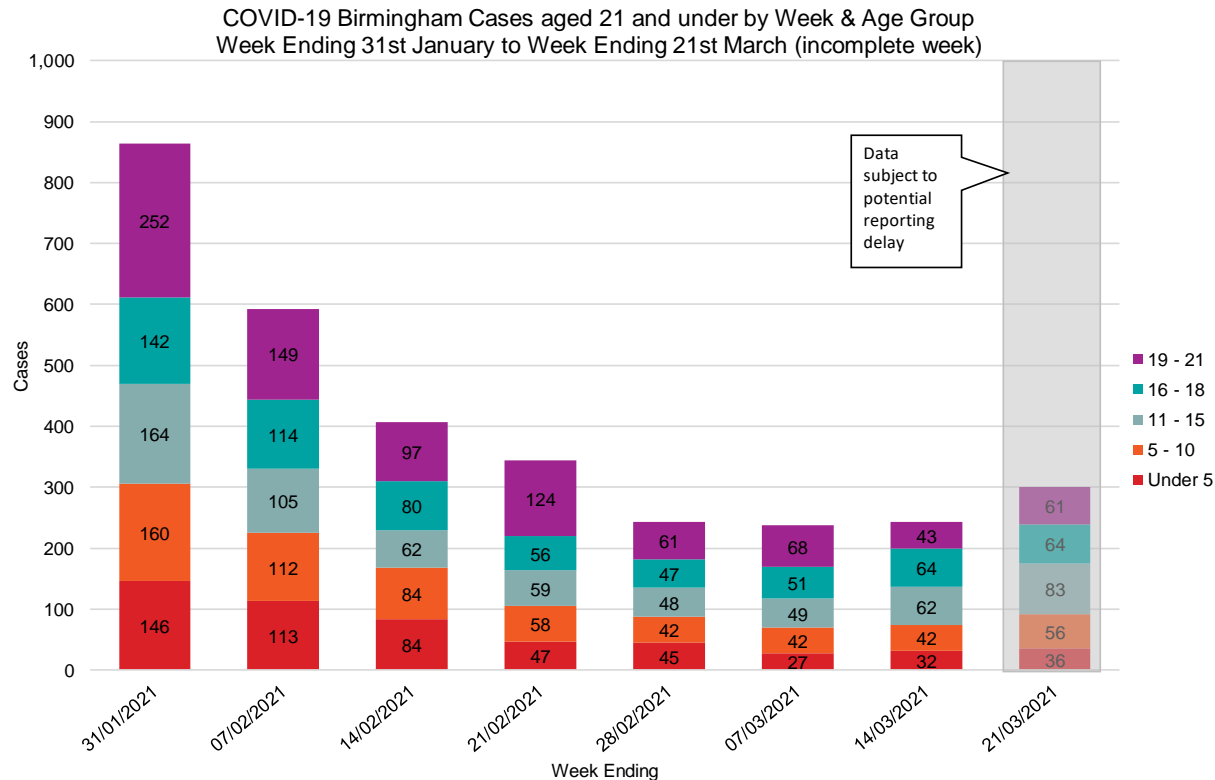
Cases for week ending 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.

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# Cases in Children & Young Adults

- Case numbers in young adults and children have fallen since the peak in January but have risen slightly over the last week.
- The increase could reflect the impact of the return to school along with increased levels of testing in these age groups.



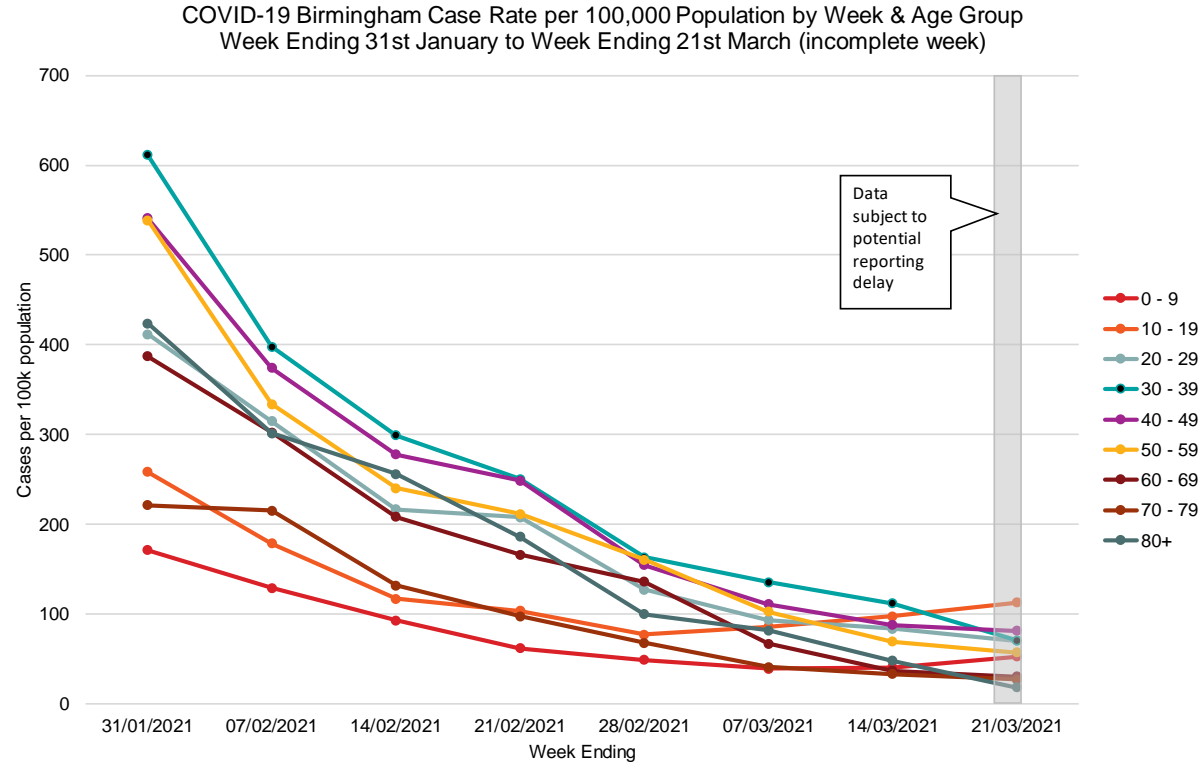
Cases for week ending 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.

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# Case Rates by Age

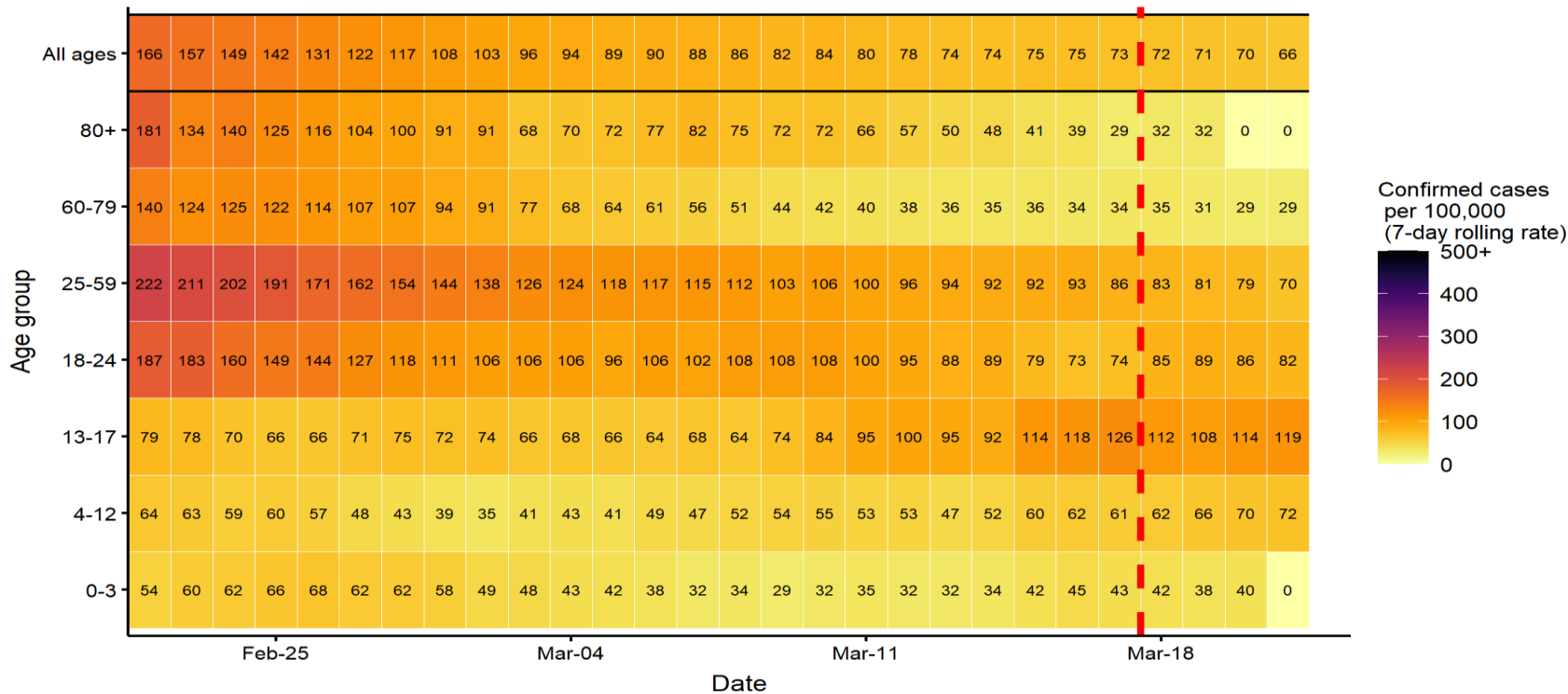
- Case rates have fallen in all age groups since the start of National Lockdown.
- Case rates are highest in the 10 - 19 age group and lowest in the 80+ age group.
- Case rates in the 10 – 19 age group have increased slightly over the last three weeks.



Cases for week ending 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.

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# Age-Specific 7-Day Rolling Case Rates per 100,000 Population in Birmingham: 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021\*



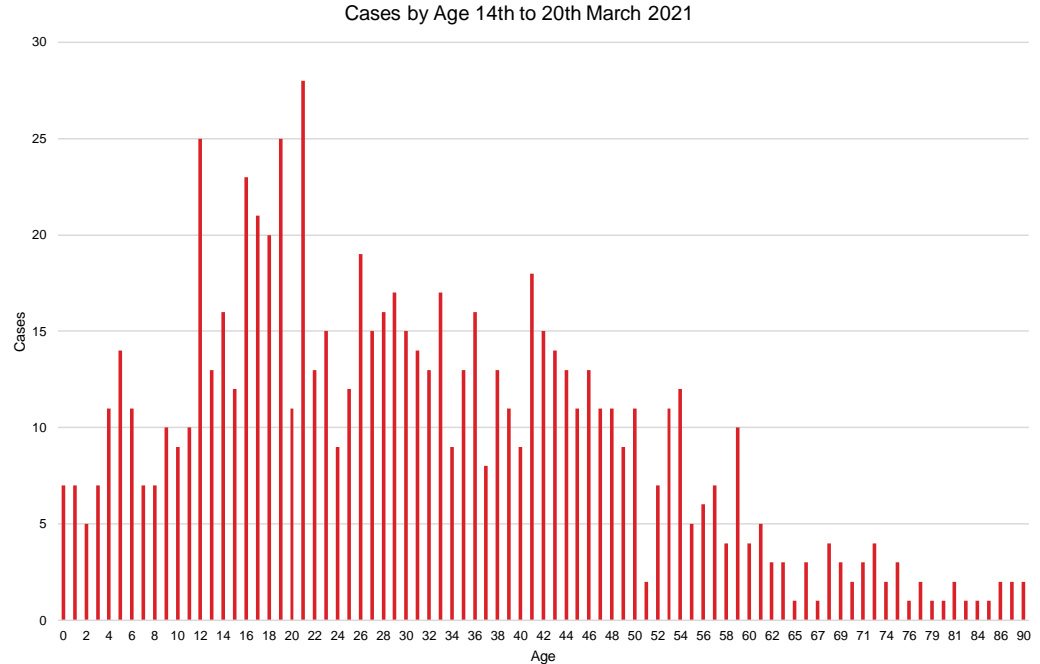
\* The red dashed line denotes the 4 most recent days that are subject to reporting delays.

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# Cases by Single Year of Age

- This chart shows the number of cases by age from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- The number of positive cases are highest in ages 12 to 40, positive cases decline thereafter.
- There was a noticeable spike in cases in those aged 4 to 6 and those aged 12 to 21 in the last week

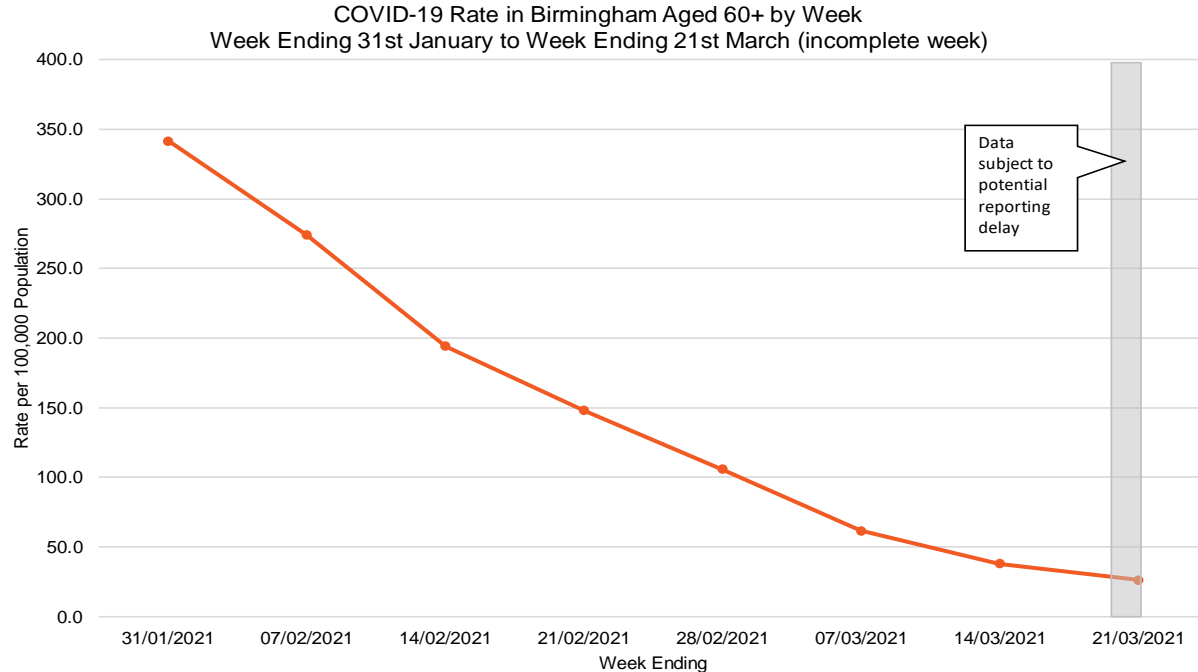


Cases for week ending 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.

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# Case Rate in Population aged 60+

- Since the start of the National Lockdown on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the rate of positive cases in the 60+ age group has decreased significantly.
- Falling case rates in this age group is expected to be followed by declining hospital admissions and mortality in the coming weeks.



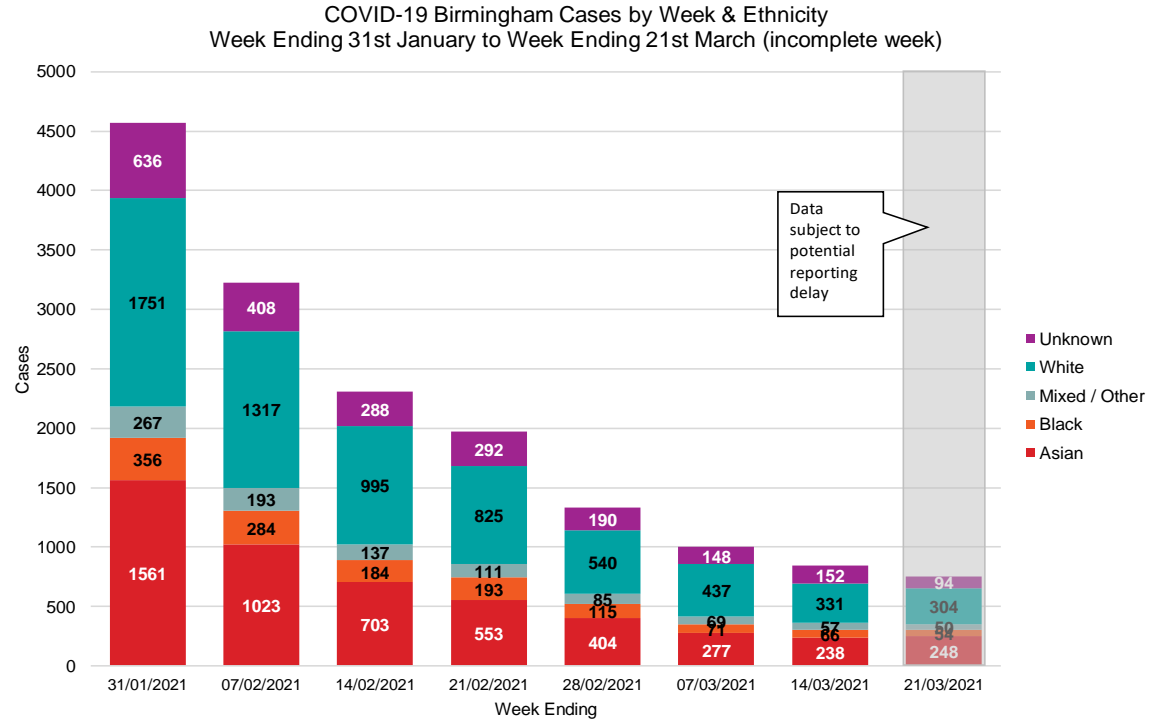
*Cases for week ending 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.*

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# Cases by Week & Ethnicity

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

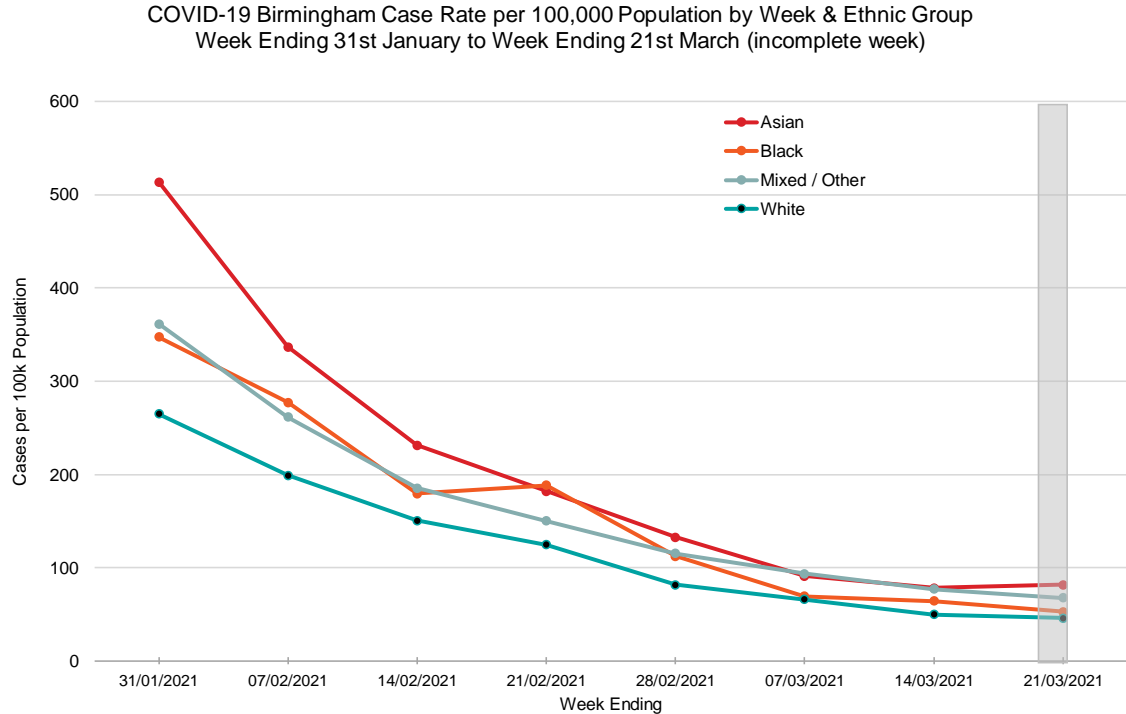


Cases for week ending 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.

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# Case Rate by Ethnic Group

- The Asian ethnic population represents the highest positive cases per 100,000 population.
- The lowest positive case rates are seen in the White ethnic group.
- Case rates have fallen across all ethnic groups since National Lockdown, but over the last week there was a slight increase in the Asian ethnic group.

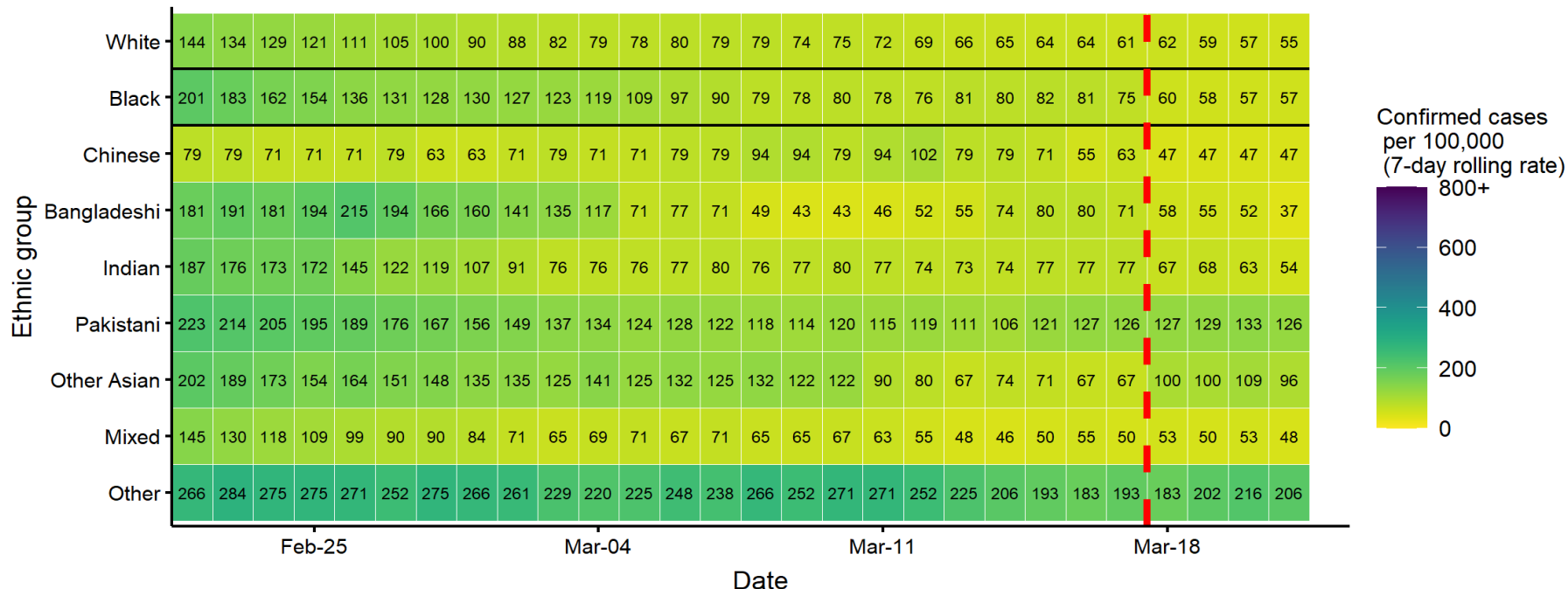


*Cases for week ending 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 are likely to be under-estimated due to time lags in reporting.*

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# Ethnicity-Specific 7-day Rolling Case Rates per 100,000 Population in Birmingham: 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021\*



Excluding 4% ethnicity data classified as Na or Unknown.  
Where text is red rates should be interpreted with caution as underlying case numbers are <5.

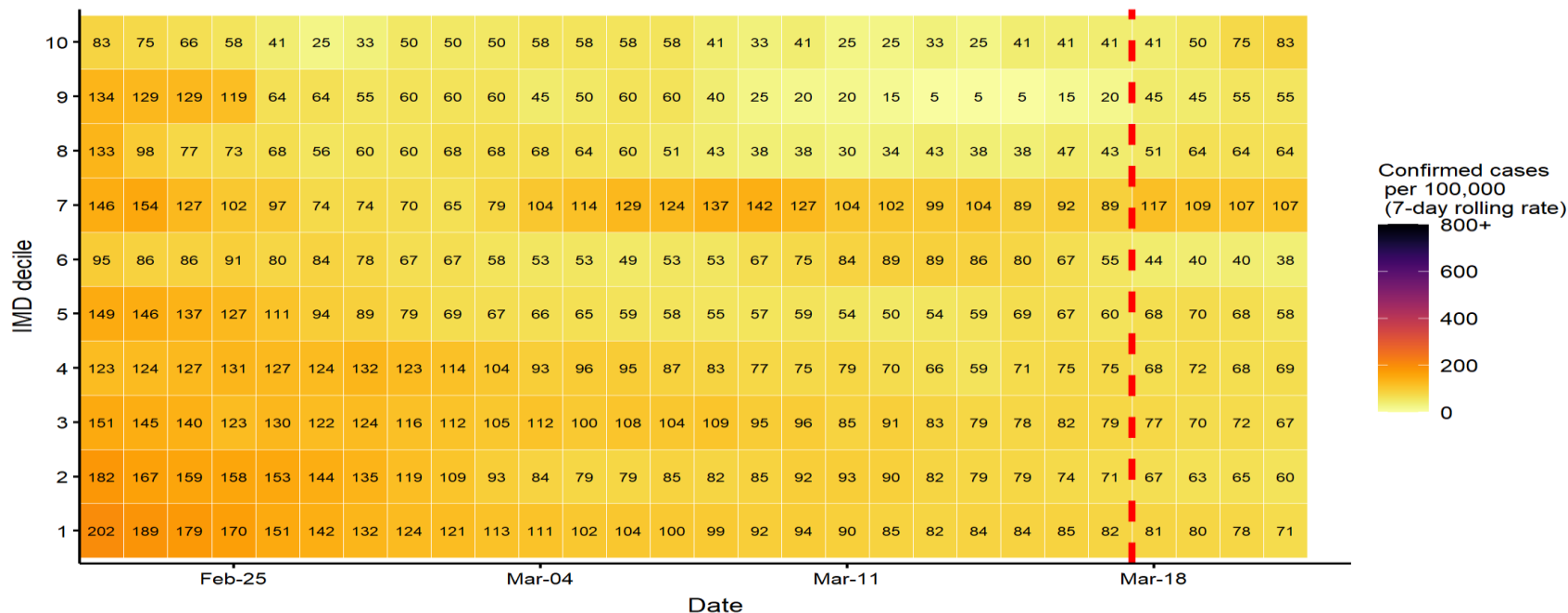
\* The red dashed line denotes the 4 most recent days that are subject to reporting delays.

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# Index of Multiple Deprivation-Specific 7-Day Rolling Case Rates per 100,000 Population in Birmingham: 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> March 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.

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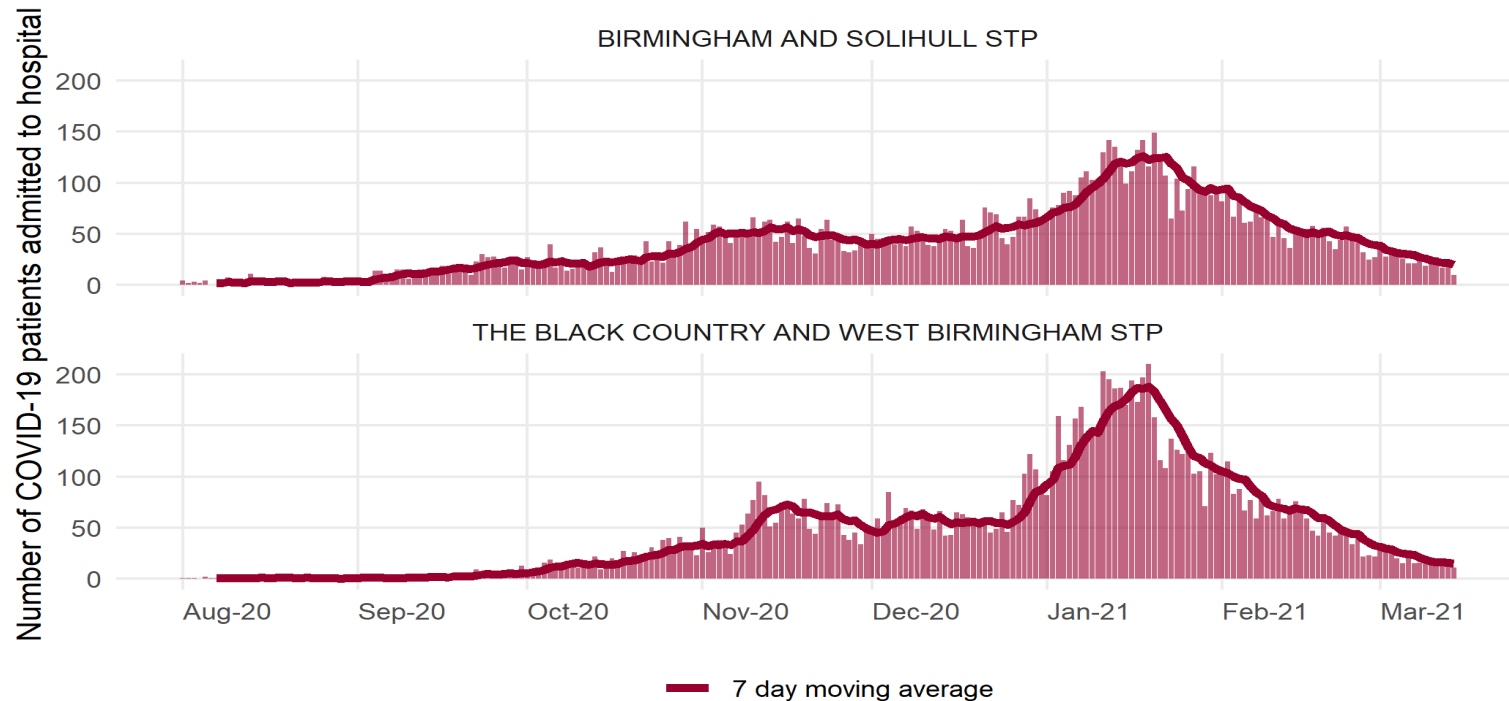
# NHS Situations



# Hospital Metrics Data

Hospital Trust	Covid - 19 Daily Admissions 14/03	Hospital in-patients 16/03	Patients on Mechanical Ventilation 16/03
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	8	179	35
Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	4	91	14
Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	2	18	0
Birmingham Women's & Children's NHS Foundation Trust	0	2	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 March 14, 2021



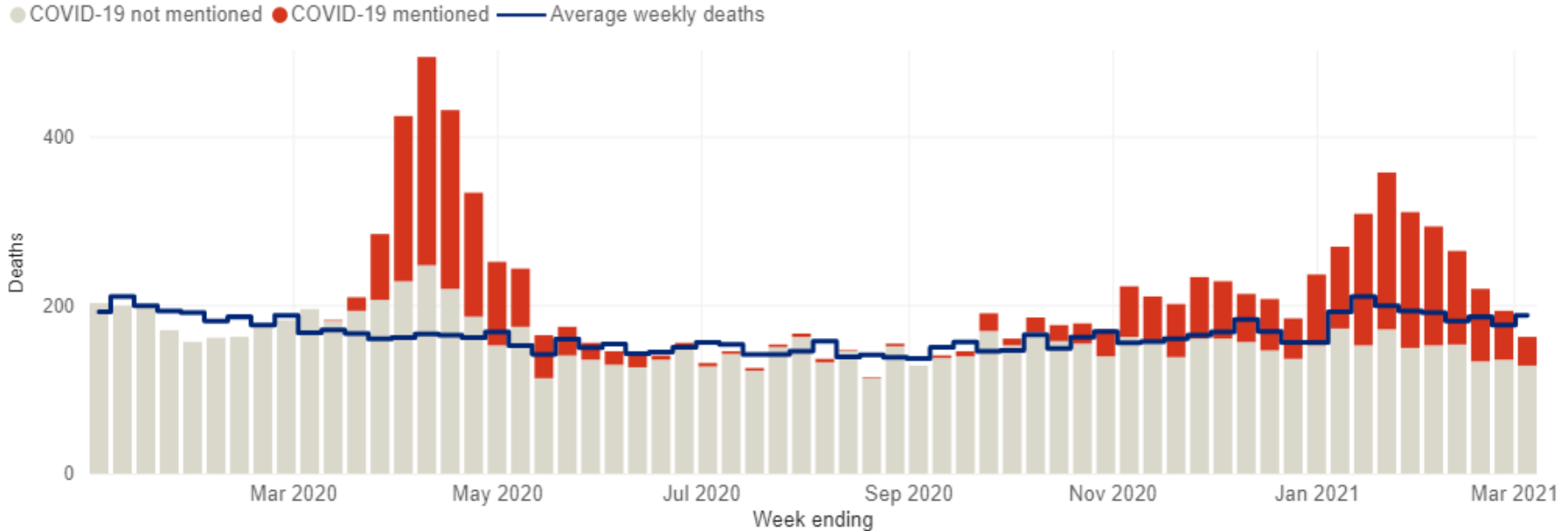
# Deaths



## Death Data

- The most recent death data where death occurred within 28 days of a positive Covid-19 test for the week ending the 21<sup>st</sup> March reported 11 deaths and a death rate of 1.0 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 5<sup>th</sup> March, this reported **45 deaths** registered in Birmingham. Of these, 73.3% were in hospital, 13.3% were at home, 6.7% in care homes and 6.7% in a hospice.

# Excess Death: All Deaths up to 26<sup>th</sup> February



The increase in excess deaths (deaths above the 5 year average) seen during the last wave has fallen in recent weeks and is expected to continue to fall following the trend in falling hospital admissions.

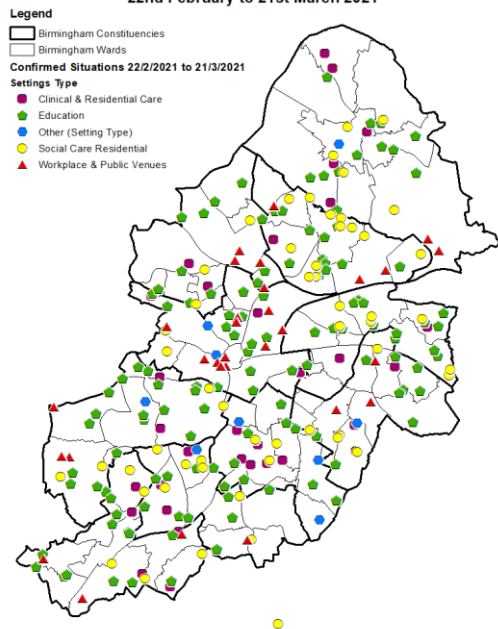
# Situations





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

All Confirmed Situations by Settings Type  
22nd February to 21st March 2021



Produced by Birmingham Public Health Knowledge Evidence and Governance Team (2021)  
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*Map represents the last month.  
One postcode can represent more  
than one situation*

## Type of Situation 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Outbreak



15



7%

Cluster



25



79%

Exposure



46



35%

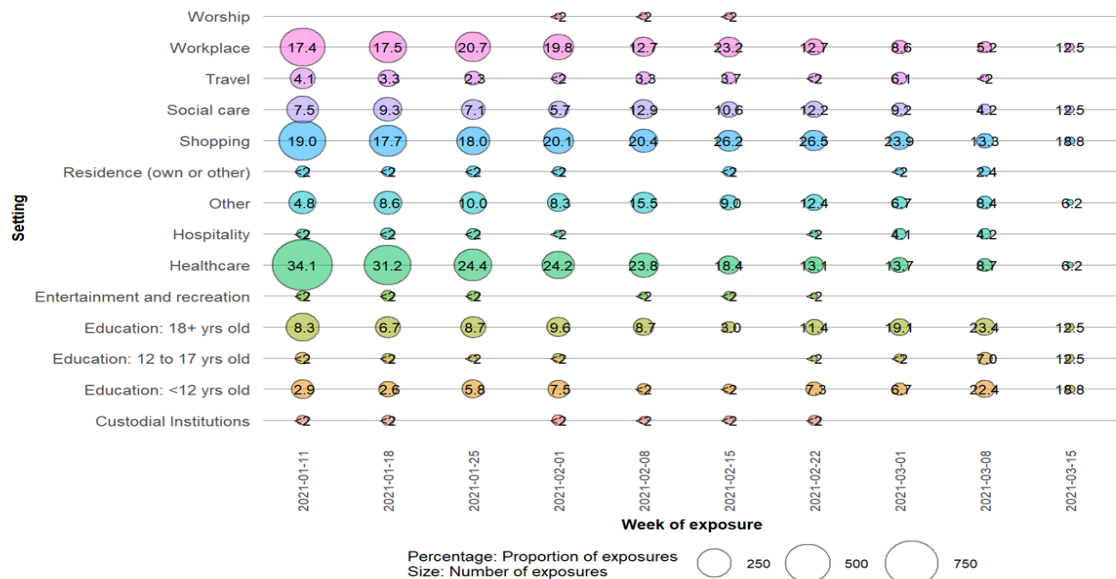
- A total of **86** situations were recorded in the last 7 days, an **increase of 39%** overall (24 situations).
- Clusters** have **increased by 11** situations over the past week, from 14 reports last week.
- Exposures** have **increased by 12** situations, from 34 reported last week.
- Outbreaks** have **increased by 1** situation from 14 reported last week.

- The **majority of situations** this week have been reported in **Education** settings, as expected with the reopening of schools on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Education reported **63** this week (up 54%), and account for **73% of all situations**.
- Situations in **Social Care Residential** settings account for **17% of all situations**, reporting 15 situations this week, an **increase of 50%**.
- Workplaces & Public Venues** reported 5 situations this week, a **29% decrease**, since last week, and account for **6% of all situations**.
- Other Residential Settings** have reported just **1 situation** this week, down from 2 reported last week.
- Clinical** situations have remained stable with **2 situations** reported this week.

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

Number & percentage of weekly exposures by setting: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to 21<sup>st</sup> March 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.

- The number of common exposures identified has fallen in recent weeks.
- The week of the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021, saw Shopping and under-12s Education as the most common setting type for common exposures, followed by Workplace and Social Care settings, and Education, in the 12-17 yrs and 18+ settings.
- Common exposures **are not** proof of transmission in a setting but provide evidence of where transmission **might** be taking place.

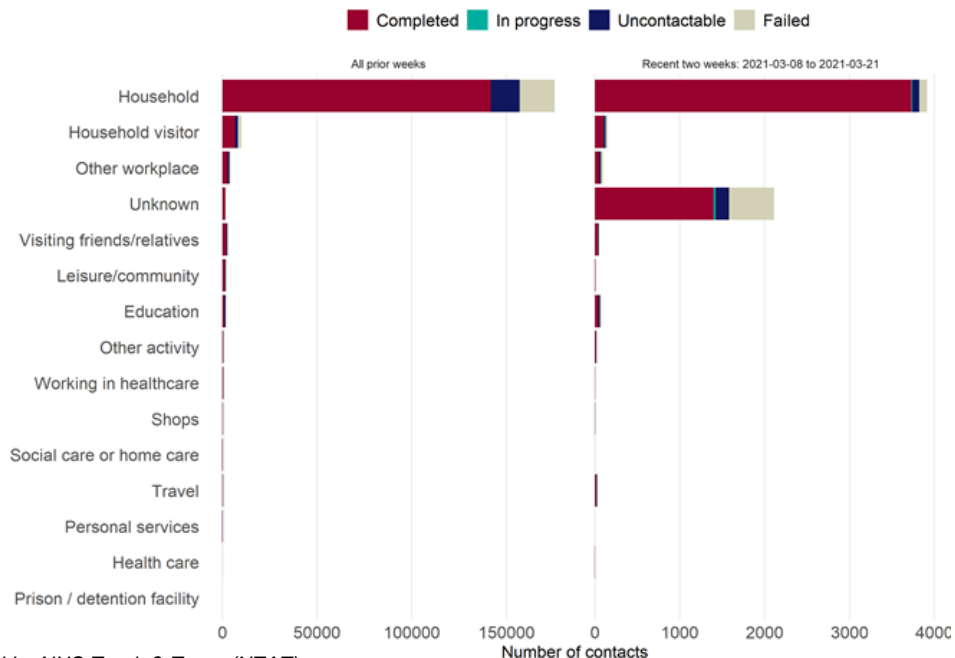
# Contact Tracing



# Contact Tracing

- The Birmingham Contact Tracing Service, following improvements in national data, restarted its service on 11 January 2021 targeting an initial 12 wards in Birmingham selected on both the basis of poor completion rate by NHS T&T and the high case rate/prevalence.
- As the number of positive cases have reduced during lockdown, the Contact Tracing Service has steadily increased geographical coverage and is now covering 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 West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) for follow-up (approx. 5-10 cases/day)
  - refuse to co-operate/self-isolate. These are referred to Environmental Health for follow-up visits (approx. 2 cases/day)
- Total no. of positive cases received February = 1,730; completion rate of 56%
- 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 April 2021 (date to be confirmed).

# Test & Trace Contacts by Exposure/Activity Setting & Current Outcome: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021



- Households are the most common exposure/activity setting.
- This is followed by household visitors and visiting friends/relatives.
- The last two weeks saw an increase in the unknown category. PHE state this is where data on exposure category is not provided
- In the past two weeks, nearly 4,000 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)



1- Support understanding and awareness of guidance and control measures



2 - Enable partnership working to deliver the local plan

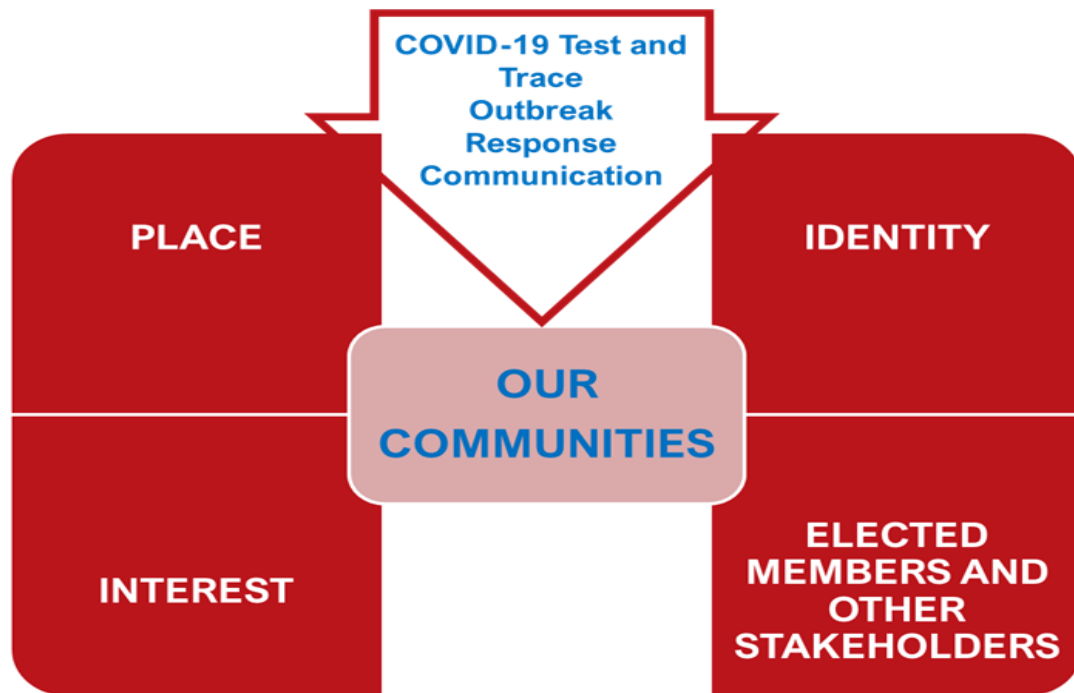


3 - Establish appropriate and effective channels for delivery of the plan



4 - Assess impact and reflect the evolving evidence-base on behavioural insight

# Core engagement threads to aid delivery





# COVID-19 Champions Survey

(4 January 2021 to 30 January 2021. N=92)

## Highlights:

- 83.6% of respondents thought that we send the 'right amount' of emails every week.
- 81% stated that the programme was good or very good

## Obstacles reported:

67% respondents said there were not any barriers to sharing the information with their communities.

33% of respondents said that there were barriers.

Within the comments of this 33%, two key themes emerged:

There was specific feedback on the format of the weekly data dashboard and the new method of a hyperlink rather than an attachment, to respond to this we are now circulating this in different formats: PDF, Jpeg & power-point.

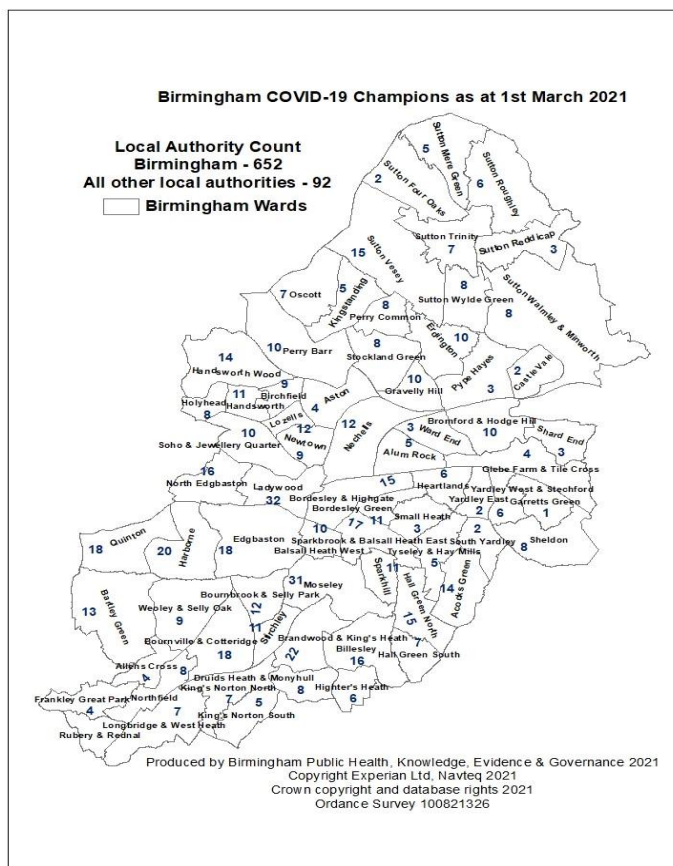
There were also comments on information overload and negative information impact on people's mental wellbeing and so to respond to this we are working to include more 'positive news' into the weekly cascade.

Method of communication	Number of participants using this method of communication
WhatsApp	40
Facebook	28
Twitter	16
Zoom	15
Emails	15
Texts	11
Instagram	7
LinkedIn	5
Phone calls	4
Face to face	4
Radio show	1
Intranet at work	1
WeChat	1
YouTube	1

# COVID Champion Programme

There are Covid champions present in all 69 wards – currently 782 champions. However representation is not even and the 10 most under-represented wards are: *Targ Alum Rock, Aston, Glebe Farm & Tile Cross, Small Heath, Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East, Soho & Jewellery Quarter, Bromford & Hodge Hill, Sparkhill, Kingstanding and Stockland Green* and engagement in these wards is being undertaken to increase local representation in these areas.

Good representation of different religions, ethnicities and the LGBTQ community. Under-representation in some specific communities specifically *men, Bangladeshi communities, Caribbean communities, Young people aged 18-30 years and people who consider themselves to have a disability*. We are currently commissioning additional champion support for people with disabilities, young people and reviewing our community engagement partner programme to address these gaps.



# Digital Engagement for Champion Recruitment

(@BhamUpdates) are running a campaign to recruit champions in the wards where we have under representation for the next five weeks.

The campaign will focus on:

- Explaining why misinformation on COVID-19 is such a problem for the city and will highlight specific myths circulating and explain the truth.
- How you can make a difference by volunteering as a COVID-19 Community Champion with @bhamcitycouncil. Apply and find out more: <https://t.co/NvxQnZdVEQ>
- Profile champions to share their experiences.



**THESE ARE THE MOST COMMON EXAMPLES OF THINGS WE'RE SEEING:**

- FALSE - People think the vaccine will cause severe side effects.
- FALSE - People believe the vaccine is an attempt to control the public.
- FALSE - People think the vaccine hasn't been properly tested, and made too quickly.
- FALSE - People believe they'll be immune if they have already contracted COVID-19.

# Digital Engagement: February to March 2021



## Social Media – Healthy Brum



Increase in engagement across the board

Increase in followers on all platforms

Increase in the number of people reached

Increase in the number of mentions

## 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

## Targeted Social Media Adverts

Advertised the new LFT sites in Birmingham on Facebook. This gained:

- 38,000 views
- 4000 click throughs

## New Resources

Sikh Community Videos

# Partnership engagement

- In partnership with the CCGs, we hosted five Q&A sessions for the public on the vaccination roll out in February. These public sessions were hosted by Cllr Paulette Hamilton, Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Health and led by a panel of local GPs.
- Over the last two month our Community Partners have led conversations with their communities to address the concerns of their communities about the vaccination and spread of misinformation.



# Further Work in Progress

In January 2021 we successfully secured £440,000 of the Community Champions Fund from the Ministry of Housing and Local Communities (MHCLG) to strengthen our engagement with residents impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19).

This funding is supporting specific projects:

- Working with Birmingham Chamber of Commerce to strengthen our engagement with the business community, co-hosting a series of business briefings and recruiting business leaders to become champions
- Working with the Youth Service team to co-produce content with children and young people and host a series of live Q&As led by DPH and develop young people Covid champions.
- Increasing the range of accessible information for hard to reach and vulnerable groups to include people with learning difficulties, poor literacy and vulnerable families.
- Working closely with our 18 existing community partners to upskill and 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 for 12 months to accelerate engagement to support understanding and the uptake of testing, vaccination and recovery.
- Commissioning a series of arts and culture based interventions targeted at specific communities of identity to increase engagement and understanding of Covid risk.

