

Bristol Covid19 Update & Guidance

Updated: 25th September 2020

This briefing contains key information and guidance from the Bristol Local Engagement Board. Please read carefully, follow the guidance and share with your staff teams and volunteers widely.

Overarching

As of Tuesday 25 September, Bristol's infection rate is 19 cases per 100,000 people which is higher than the previous 7 days (up to 22/9/20). In the last seven days, 6,590 community tests have been undertaken and there have been 88 new positive cases in a population of over 463,000 people. While Bristol's infection rate is low compared to the UK average (51.7 per 100,000) **we cannot be complacent**. Due to ongoing issues relating to access to the national testing programme and sporadic delays in the reporting of new positive cases to local authorities, we cannot be entirely confident that the numbers reported always reflect the true picture. In addition to this, we do not have stats that show non-symptomatic spreading of the virus, which could mean the rate is higher than reported. The [bi-weekly data and accompanying narrative](#) provide an indication, but should be used cautiously with these limitations in mind.

Key Messages and Updates

Hands, Face, Space (#handsfacespace) ... Isolate

- Protect yourself, your loved ones and the wider community by remembering 'Hands. Face. Space'
 - Hands - Wash your hands regularly
 - Face - Wear a face covering where rules apply - in shops, other indoor places and on public transport
 - Space - Staying at least 2 metres apart, or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions
- Watch [this video](#) for further guidance.

Self-isolating and testing capacity

- Anyone who has Covid-19 symptoms must self-isolate at home until they can get a test.
- **Isolating stops the spread of infection.**
- Self-isolating means you must not leave your home, whether that be for work, exercise or shopping. Visitors, except for those providing essential care, are also not allowed.
- We realise there are problems with the national system for booking a test, but please persevere. New slots are released daily. You can book a test online or by ringing 119. Please **do not ring 111** as this service does not provide COVID-19 tests.
- You don't need a test unless you have symptoms: a new continuous cough, a high temperature and/or a loss of taste/smell.
- There are many common colds circulating at the moment, so **you only need a test if you have the specific Covid-19 symptoms**. You don't need a test if:
 - your employer, school, or travel company has asked for a negative test

- you have been in close contact with someone who has coronavirus
- you have been abroad and are quarantining
- If you live with someone who is self-isolating but does not have symptoms or has not tested positive, you do not need to isolate.

Rule of Six

- A maximum of six people from multiple households can meet up both indoors and outdoors - in private homes, pubs, restaurants and parks.
- All ages are included in the total of six.
- There are some exceptions - for example when a single household has more than six occupants, you are supporting vulnerable people or for events such as weddings and funerals. More information on exemptions is available on the [government website](#).

School outbreaks

- Seven outbreaks (two or more positive cases in a setting) in five schools and one nursery.
- 10 exposures (one case in a setting) in seven schools and three nurseries.
- Five schools where there are possible cases:
 - These are including the cases that were reported on earlier this month, [here](#) (Two Mile Hill Primary, Shirehampton Primary and John Williams Oasis Academy) and [here](#) (Elmfield School for Deaf Children, Compass Point Primary, Clifton College and Bristol Brunel Academy).
 - As at 24/9/20 we five new cases in schools. You can find more info [here](#). (Redmaids', Bedminster Down, Colston's, Oasis Academy Brightstowe, St Mary Redcliffe and Temple, St Brendan's Sixth Form College.)
- Information for parents, carers and guardians:
 - An attendance guide and Frequently Asked Questions have been produced for parents, carers and guardians and are attached to this email and the FAQs are online [here](#).
- Information for schools:
 - If a local school has a suspected Covid-19 case, they must contact the council and Public Health England (PHE). If there are two or more cases, this is classed as an 'outbreak' and PHE become more closely involved.
 - The PHE advice service will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.
 - Schools will send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.

Return of university students to Bristol

This year, university will be very different for new and returning students amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Both the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England have been working extremely hard to ensure a warm welcome and safe environment for all. New

hygiene measures are in place and Covid-19 outbreak plans have been developed. We know that travel and social mixing between young people are key drivers of Covid-19 spreading so the key messages to students are:

- to stay in 'social circles' while at university. This means not gathering in groups of more than 6 people while on campus and off campus.
- not to go home during the weekends to avoid social mixing, especially if there are vulnerable people back at home. Wait until the end of term to keep loved ones safe.
- to reach out to their university for support.

Car sharing

- We know that car sharing is one of the more common ways that Covid-19 can be spread, so please avoid it where possible. However, if there is no alternative means of travel, passengers should:
 - Use a travel buddy system – share with the same small group only
 - Sit as far away from other passengers as possible
 - Keep windows open
 - Touch as few surfaces as possible
 - Avoid eating or drinking in the car
 - Wear a face covering
 - Use disinfectant wipes and hand sanitiser before and after each journey.
- For further government advice on car sharing, [click here](#).

New restrictions

- **Working from home:** you should now work from home where you can. If employees CANNOT work from home, they should continue to go to work as normal.
- **Hospitality venues:** Hospitality venues must have a closing time of 10pm. This is a legal requirement and must be adhered to. They can also offer table service only. No one should order drinks at the bar, under any circumstance.
- **Sport:** Plans to allow fans to return to sporting events paused and "Rule of six" now applies to indoor team sports.
- **Fines:** fines for not wearing masks or following rules increased to £200 for first offence.
- **Wedding capacity reduction:** Weddings are now capped at a maximum of 15 guests.
- **Face coverings:** Wearing a face covering will become a legal requirement. As well as wearing them in shops, takeaways and other indoor communal spaces, face coverings must also be worn in hospitality venues, unless you are seated at a table.
- **COVID-secure workplaces:** Ensuring workplaces are COVID-secure will become a legal requirement. For more info on making your workplace COVID-secure [click here](#).

Specific campaigns

NHS Test & Trace app

- The NHS Test & Trace app launched 24 September providing tailored advice to each user through alerts, QR code check-in, a digital diary of venues you have visited, a symptoms check, test bookings and isolation advice. Find out more [here](#).
- On Friday 18 September, the government announced that certain venues, including venues run by local authorities will now be **legally required** to display NHS QR posters in their venues by Thursday 24 September. This includes all venues from the following sectors:
 - hospitality
 - leisure and tourism
 - close contact services
 - places of worship
 - local authority venues
- It is not a legal requirement for all customers to scan the QR poster, but it is a legal requirement for the venues to:
 - ask at least one member of every party of customers or visitors (up to 6 people) to provide their name and contact details
 - keep a record of all staff working on their premises and shift times on a given day and their contact details
 - keep these records of customers, visitors and staff for 21 days and provide data to NHS Test and Trace if requested
- For further details on test and trace records, please click [here](#).

The Covid-19 citizen survey

- Launching imminently to obtain feedback from Bristol citizens about how Covid-19 has impacted their lives and better understand the barriers people face doing the practical things we all need to do to stop the spread of the virus. We'll share further details as soon as they're available.
- We are particularly seeking responses from citizens who we hear from the least, so welcome your support in encouraging responses from a range of social, economic and cultural communities.

Future VCSE Updates

This and future updates from the Bristol Local Engagement Board will be shared with the sector via email and can also be found on [Voscur's website](#). If you wish to be added to Voscur's mailing list, please [do so on our website](#) or email info@voscur.org using the subject header: **Sign-up for Voscur E-bulletins & Updates**. Please use and share this information widely to help keep yourselves, our citizens and communities as safe as possible as we move into the Autumn and Winter months and, most importantly, remember the key message; **Hands.Face.Space. (#handsfacespace) ... and isolate.**



Thank you for your hard work and dedication during these challenging times. By staying safe, sharing key messages and continuing to work together we protect and save lives by minimising the spread of infection across our neighbourhoods and communities.

Team Voscur

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#Covid19

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