



Hillstone News

Thumbs up from Public Health England

So far it's been a great week with only one bubble closure - fingers crossed we don't have any more!

Following a recent surge in cases in Shard End and the school, we have had a consultation with Public Health England (PHE) who have been reviewing the schools data regularly and have also discussed our processes, and we are happy to say they have confirmed our procedures and processes are in line with government guidelines. This is great confirmation for the school but hopefully also for our parents.

In a recent meeting we also had the opportunity to discuss ideas to help the reduce the high incident rate in the Shard End area including **increasing communication** within the local area and introducing **Community Marshalls** to ensure guidance is adhered to.

Public Health England were also keen for us to remind our families:

- ◆ Children self isolating due to a bubble closure, must not go out for **any** reason
- ◆ Even if not self isolating - children and families should not be going to each others houses
- ◆ Lateral flow tests for those without symptoms are now available from Shard End Wellbeing Centre

To get the latest updates on incident rates around the country you can visit:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map>

Extra Covid Precautions in School

With restrictions being eased gradually over the next couple of weeks, we all need to play our part to break the cycle of children returning to school only to have to self isolate. With Shard End being a very high incident rate we are constantly looking for ways to help prevent the spread and disruption to your children's schooling.

So, we are implementing a couple of extra precautions and procedures in school including:

- ◆ Teachers and staff wearing masks when in communal areas or walking through corridors
- ◆ Changing to single class bubbles so that less children are required to isolate when a bubble closes

A huge thank you to all of our parents and guardians for wearing masks on school grounds, we really appreciate your support.

Helpful Reminders

Water Bottles - a new delivery has arrived so please collect your child's order from the school office

Easter Holiday Dates - Last day of school is 1st April returning on the 19th April

School Laptops - Please return any borrowed school laptops or wifi hubs by the end of the week

Uniform Orders - Please collect orders from the school office

Egg Decorating Competition - It's time to get creative - bring in your entries on the 30th March





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Shard End Covid News

The current high prevalence of Covid in Shard End has made the news, just a couple of the latest articles can be read below:

Covid: Concern over Shard End infection rate

While infection rates across Birmingham are continuing to fall, the rapidly increasing rate in the Shard End area is being described as a "warning bell" by the city's head of public health.

Across Birmingham the seven day case rate stands at 70.2 new cases per 100,000 people, but in Shard End it stands at 369.9, up from 238.4 the previous week.

Dr Justin Varney said "Some of this is about families, but some is also about social interaction outside of the house and between households."

He asked people to continue to follow the guidelines while warning that enforcement may need to be ramped up.

Posted at 16:00 25 Mar 16:00 - BBC News

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-england-birmingham-56455291>

The postcodes in Birmingham and the West Midlands where Covid rates have jumped above 400

These are the four postcodes across the West Midlands that have a Covid infection rate above 400 - as areas begin to see a rise.

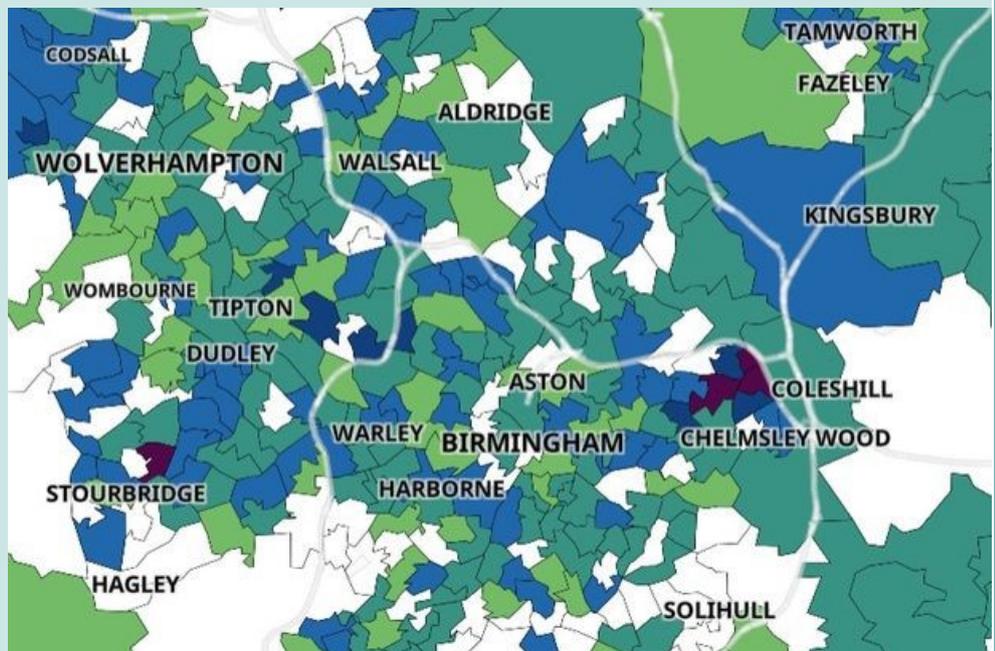
An area of the Black Country, Birmingham and two neighbourhoods in Solihull still have an infection rate in the red as the continued battle to suppress the deadly virus continues.

These areas - including Shard End and Amblecote East - have seen the infection rates rocket above 400 cases per 100,000 people.

Topping the list is Smith's Wood North with a rate of 494.

This is followed by Smith's Wood South that has a rate of 452.

Shard End & Kingfisher is third and, lastly, Amblecote East is ranked fourth with 419 and 417.



Posted at 05.30 26 Mar - Birmingham Live

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/black-country/postcodes-birmingham-west-midlands-covid-20259004>



HILLSTONE STARS

Each week, teachers will choose a Hillstone star from Lockdown School and one from Virtual School. They will all be celebrated on the Hillstone Stars tab on our website. Here are last week's outstanding pupils.

Tegan Macauley

Suleiman Gadir

Kayden Evans

Sophie Burns

Kyan Dunbar

Gabriella-Rose Blissett

Jahriah Matthews

Logan Kesterton

Evie Hartford

Amin Hawadle

Ciara Hall

