

Latest COVID-19 information and advice for the borough of Bury

October 21, 2020

Bury placed in 'Tier 3' – highest coronavirus risk level

The Prime Minister has announced that Bury, along with the rest of Greater Manchester, will be escalated to the highest coronavirus risk level from 00:01 on Friday October 23.

The 'Very High Risk' level applies where transmission rates are causing the greatest concern, based on data and the local situation.

This means that new measures will come into place including:

- People must not socialise with anybody they do not live with or have formed a support bubble with, in any indoor setting or in any private garden or at most outdoor hospitality venues and ticketed events
- People must not socialise in a group of more than 6 in an outdoor public space such as a park or beach, the countryside, a public garden or a sports venue
- Pubs and bars must close; they can only remain open where they operate as if they were a restaurant, which means serving substantial meals, like a main lunchtime or evening meal, and they may only serve alcohol as part of such a meal
- Adult gaming centres, bingo halls, casinos, bookmakers, betting shops and children's soft play centres must also close.
- People should try to avoid travelling outside the very high alert level area you are in or entering a very high alert level area, other than for things like work, education or youth services, to meet caring responsibilities or if you are travelling through as part of a longer journey
- People should avoid staying overnight in another part of the UK if you are resident in a very high alert level area, or avoid staying overnight in a very high alert level area if you are resident elsewhere

Further details about the restrictions in place for Bury, as a Very High Risk level area, are available from the government website at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-very-high>. An infographic is also attached here.

Measures will only be in place as long as necessary, with case rates and epidemiology reviewed regularly. The restrictions in Greater Manchester will be reviewed by at least November 11.

Safe hygiene remains critical, with the same three simple actions that everyone must do to keep on protecting each other:

- Wash hands – keep washing your hands regularly
- Cover face – wear a face covering in enclosed spaces
- Make space – stay at least 2 metres apart – or 1m with a face covering or other protection.

We will update you with further information or advice as it is made available.

Latest data

Rates of new COVID-19 cases continued to increase in Bury in the week up to October 17. Within these rates we are now seeing increasing cases in the older working age bands, and in elderly people who tend to be more vulnerable to severe disease. Cases are still spread across Bury both in terms of geography and demographic. The number of patients with COVID-19 in local hospitals continues to increase. Sadly we are continuing to see deaths with a cause of COVID-19 on the death certificate alongside an increase in deaths published through official ONS statistics.

With 782 new cases recorded in the seven days to October 17, Bury's infection rate has risen from 362.8 per 100,000 to 409.5 per 100,000 and continues to be among the highest rates in the UK.

The four-week summary in Bury:

Week ending October 17: infection rate 409.5 (782 new cases)

Week ending October 10: infection rate 362.8 (693 new cases)

Week ending October 3: infection rate 283.3 (541 new cases)

Week ending September 26: infection rate 224.6 (429 new cases)

Getting Tested

We are working hard to ensure that everyone in Bury who needs a test for COVID-19, gets one.

Please only request a test if you have symptoms - a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste. Get tested within the first 3-5 days of symptoms.

Full list of testing options:

- Walk-through testing centres (no appointment needed) at the Mosses Centre and Chesham Fold (open 10am-3pm, Mon-Fri)
- Drive-through testing (by appointment) at Waterfold Business Park
- Department for Health & Social Care testing centres (by appointment):
 - The former Radcliffe Pool car park, Blackburn Street (open 8am-8pm, Mon-Sun)
 - Whitefield Library, Pinfold Lane, Whitefield (open 8am-8pm, Mon-Sun)
 - The Metro Christian Centre, 13 Parkhills Road (8am-8pm Mon-Sat)
- Tests at regional sites/home test kits are also available.

How to book

With the exception of our walk-through testing centres where no appointment is needed; people requesting a test need to book an appointment in advance. The way you book an appointment varies by location as the testing sites are run in different ways by different providers. You can find all the information you need on booking and testing generally in one place:

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-testing> or call 0161 253 5515.

Isolation

Self-isolating in an appropriate and timely way is one of the best lines of defence we have against the spread of coronavirus. We've developed a handy graphic sheet – attached – for people to use and distribute far and wide, and outlined the rules below:

When do I need to self-isolate?

You should self-isolate if:

- You have COVID-19 symptoms - a new continuous cough, high temperature, or change in sense of taste or smell
- You test positive for COVID-19
- You live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19
- You arrive in the UK from one of a number of countries which aren't exempt from quarantine rules
- You are contacted by NHS Test and Trace to say you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive

What does self-isolation mean?

- Self-isolating means staying at home and not leaving it.
- You should not go out for any reason - even to buy food, medicines or other essentials, or for exercise.
- You should order online groceries, or ask friends or family to help out by getting what you need and leaving items outside your front door.

How long must I stay at home?

- **10 DAYS** – if you have symptoms or have had a positive test
- **14 DAYS** – if someone in your house has symptoms or you are told you are a close contact of someone with a positive test
- **14 DAYS** – if you arrive in the UK from a restricted country.

How are the rules enforced?

From 28 September, anyone in England who does not self-isolate after a positive test or if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 could be fined up to £10,000.

Local support for those self-isolating

A scheme that offers a one-off £500 payment to those asked to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Track and Trace is now open for applications. Aimed at those on low incomes, a £500 payment will be made to people who cannot work from home and will lose income as a result. Further details and an application form are available at www.bury.gov.uk/isolation-payments

Bury's Community Hubs are available to step in and help people who are in self-isolation and do not have people close to help with food shopping and collecting medical supplies. Call 0161 253 5353 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for information.

Next update due Thursday October 29, 2020.

ENDS