

Latest Covid-19 advice for the borough of Bury – 14 May, 2021

‘Variant of concern’ in circulation - please be vigilant

This week it emerged that a particular new variant of coronavirus circulating in Greater Manchester has also been found in a small number of Bury cases.

While we are doing everything possible to identify and isolate these cases (as we would with any variant), we are urging people to remain extremely cautious, especially as more indoor social mixing is set to be allowed from next Monday.

The new B.1.617.2 variant (the so-called ‘Indian’ variant) has recently been designated a variant of concern because it appears to be at least as infectious as the B.1.1.7 variant (the so-called ‘Kent’ variant). Also, we don’t know yet if this variant causes more severe disease or if the vaccines offer less protection against it.

So, it's vital we keep following the rules to protect ourselves and our families, and do our bit to stop the spread of coronavirus in our communities. We ask that you:

Continue to meet friends and family outside wherever possible.
Stick to the really important basics of hands, face, space + keep air circulating when indoors.
Get tested and isolate immediately if you need to
Take up your first and second vaccinations when offered.

Test

Bury has plenty of Covid-19 test options for people with and without symptoms – see below and take a look at bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-testing. When using a rapid test it’s really important to register the result regardless of whether positive or negative. You can do this at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

Isolate

If you test positive for coronavirus please stay at home and do not go out under any circumstances. There is support available from our Community Hubs.



Hands



Face



Space



Air

Vaccinate

Take the vaccine when offered, and make sure you get your second dose when it's time – bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-vaccine

Together we can stop coronavirus.
Let's do it for each other. Let's do it for Bury.



Could you help us get important Covid-19 information out to people in Bury?

The Bury Community Champions scheme was created so we could get important news about Covid-19 developments out to people quickly, and in the best format for them.

We're looking to recruit more Champions to join the dozens of people across the borough who have already signed up to the scheme, and help our public health team to co-produce and send out information like bulletins, leaflets, videos and assets for social media, some of which could be adapted for different needs e.g. alternative languages

As the latest developments with new variants have shown, getting the word out into our communities so people can take action for themselves and their families is more important than ever.

Find out more about becoming a community champion at www.bury.gov.uk/communitychampions

Overall case rate in Bury currently flat

The rate of new cases of Covid-19 in Bury in the week up to 8 May was only slightly higher than the previous week. The weekly rate of new cases was 22.5 per 100,000. Bury's rate was similar to the average for the North West as a whole. Most cases were in working-age people (between 18 and 65 years old). There were very few cases in people aged 60 and older.

As reported above, Bury has started to see cases of Covid-19 caused by the B.1.617.2 variant (the so-called 'Indian' variant). This variant has recently been designated a variant of concern because it appears to be at least as infectious as the B.1.1.7 variant (the so-called 'Kent' variant) and is spreading rapidly in other areas of the North West. The number of people in local hospitals with Covid-19 remains low. There were no deaths registered in Bury with Covid-19 mentioned on the death certificate in the week up to 4 May, but there have been two since that date.

Week ending 8 May: infection rate per 100,000 (including LFT) 22.5 (43 new cases).
Week ending 1 May: infection rate per 100,000 (including LFT) 21.5 (41 new cases).
Week ending 24 April: infection rate per 100,000 (including LFT) 25.7 (49 new cases).
Week ending 17 April: infection rate per 100,000 (including LFT) 27.8 (53 new cases).



Hands



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Schools advised to keep using face coverings

School and college students in Bury have been advised to continue with the use of face coverings from Monday, because of the variant of concern in Greater Manchester.

Assistant director for education and inclusion Julian Kramer has written to headteachers and college principals to urge caution in relaxing advice on the use of face coverings, because of the local outbreaks.

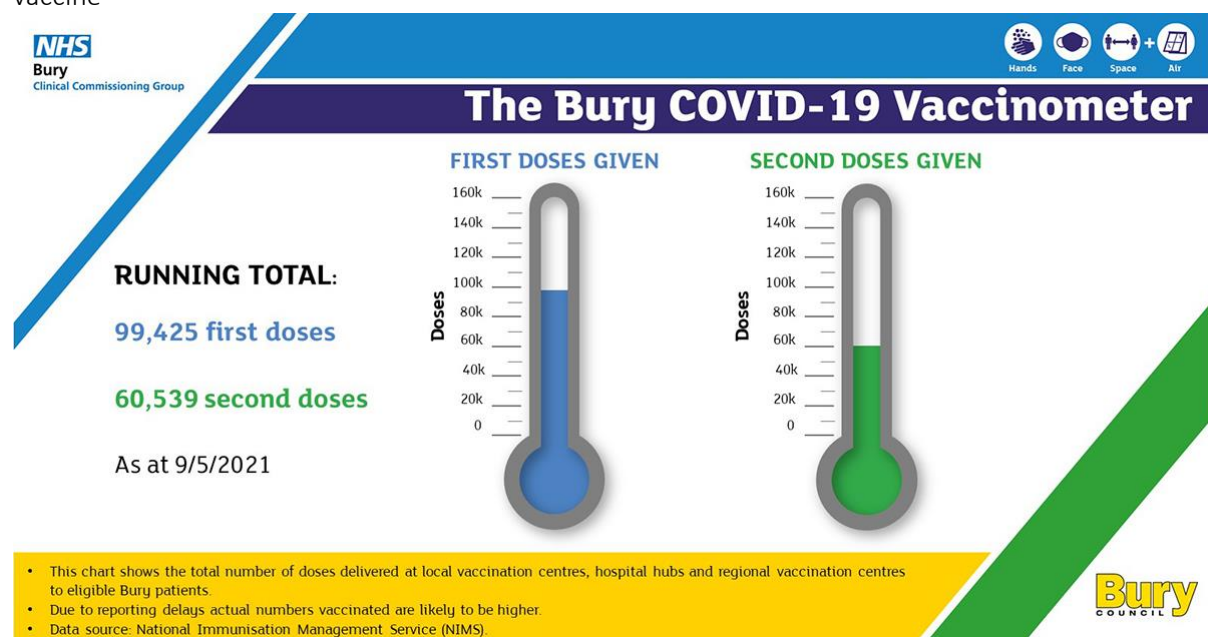
He said: "There have been instances where young people attending school or college have contributed to the spread of the more infectious variant."

"We have made significant progress in reducing cases of Covid-19 and there is a risk that this progress is undermined by the spread of this more infectious variant."

Schools and parents have also been urged to ensure that students test themselves regularly using the easy and quick lateral flow tests.

Vaccination programme continues at pace

A total of 99,425 people registered with a Bury GP have now had their first dose of the coronavirus vaccine



And 60,539 residents have now received their second jab, 11 weeks after they had their first vaccination.

If you are aged 38 and over you can visit the [NHS National Booking Service](#) or call 119 to book your first dose appointment.

Remember:

- Vaccinations are given to people in the priority order set by the Government



Hands



Face



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- The second dose of the vaccine is given 11 weeks after the first dose, and residents will be contacted by letter, phone or text message to book an appointment when the time is right. If you haven't been contacted by week 10 after your first dose, please contact your GP practice.
- You must still follow the Covid-safe rules even if you have been vaccinated – it takes several weeks for the vaccine to work, and you may still be able to catch the virus and pass it on.

[Find out more](#) about the vaccination programme in Bury.

Keep up to date with all of the latest information about the Covid-19 vaccination, along with the benefits and risks in this [useful information guide](#).

Rapid testing for everyone

In Bury we are supporting the Government's ask that everyone without symptoms gets regularly tested for coronavirus.

An estimated 1 in 3 people who have the virus don't know they do, so they could unknowingly be passing it on to their loved ones or work colleagues.

Regular rapid testing twice a week helps to pick up cases that might otherwise not have been discovered. With this knowledge we can break the chain of transmission, helping us to protect people around us and safely get back to the things we enjoy and a more normal way of life.

The rapid test, known as a lateral flow test, takes approximately five minutes to complete and the result is available in around an hour if you are having an assisted test, or 30 minutes if you are taking the test yourself at home.

There are two main ways you can arrange a rapid test:

1. Assisted testing at a test centre

You can book an assisted rapid test at one of our testing centres. Our team will explain what to do and will process your result which will be sent to you by email or text message in around an hour.

You can book an assisted rapid test online, to be carried out at either:

- Waterfold Business Park, Bury BL9 7BR.
- The Mosses Centre, Cecil Street, Bury BL9 0SB.

2. Home testing with a self-test kit

You can also take the test yourself at home by following the instructions included with the self-test kit. You can collect a supply of self-test kits from a local testing site at certain times, from participating community pharmacies, or order kits to be sent to your home.

Registering your result

If you self-test at home you will need to register your result online or by phoning 119 within 24 hours of taking your test.



Hands



Face



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If you have a positive result

Anyone who has a positive test result should self-isolate and will be required to take a follow-up PCR test within two days to confirm the result, even if they don't have symptoms. This is also important to help track any variants of concern.

Even if you have a negative result, it's still vital to continue to follow the guidance around hands, face, space and air, to avoid catching coronavirus.

Find out everything you need to know, book a test or request/arrange to pick up testing kits to use at home on our [testing information page](#).

If you have Covid-19 symptoms, here's how to get tested

If you have any of the three most common symptoms of coronavirus - a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - we urge you to get tested to protect yourself and the people around you. Please get tested within the first 3 to 5 days of symptoms.

A range of testing options are available right across the borough:

- No appointment needed at Bury's walk-through testing centre, open 10am - 3pm, Monday – Friday (excluding bank holidays) at Chesham Fold, 95 Chesham Fold Road, Bury BL9 6JZ.
- By appointment 8am - 1.30pm, with some locations open seven days a week, at Department for Health & Social Care testing centres located at:
 - The former Radcliffe Pool car park, Blackburn Street, Radcliffe
 - Whitefield Library, Pinfold Lane, Whitefield
 - The Metro Christian Centre, 13 Parkhills Road, Bury
 - Longfield Centre car park (via Rectory Lane), Prestwich
 - Great Eaves Road test site, Great Eaves Road, Ramsbottom
- Bury's drive-through testing site at Waterfold Business Park is available by appointment only.

Access the [latest information](#) about testing and availability or call 0161 253 5515.

It's vital to self-isolate

If you're told to self-isolate, it's important to do so immediately and for the full 10 days. You shouldn't leave home for any reason during this time (including the period of awaiting a Covid-19 test result)

Keeping yourself away from other people when you could be infectious is the most effective way of stopping coronavirus from spreading.

You're not alone if you find doing this hard. Planning ahead, even before you have been told to self-isolate, can make things easier; for example, think about how you would get necessities like food and medication in the event of the household having to self-isolate.



Hands



Face



Space



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Bury's Community Hubs are supporting households who are isolating and do not have friends or family nearby who can help them. Those who have tested positive for coronavirus will be contacted by the hubs on day 1 and day 6 to arrange help if needed.

Call 0161 253 5353 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for information or to talk to us about what help you might need.

Helping people through the toughest times

Mental health support

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, life has changed for all of us and it's natural that this may cause you to feel worried or anxious, lonely or frustrated. If you feel you need some extra support, Bury's Getting Help Line is a confidential telephone service run by the voluntary sector for people of all ages who are experiencing difficulties with their mental wellbeing.

You can access advice, guidance and signposting to local services by calling the Getting Help Line on 0161 464 3679. [Find out more](#) about other mental wellbeing support.

Support for business

Funding in the form of several types of grant is still available for eligible businesses of different sizes and types as we move out of lockdown.

The [Bury Means Business website](#) has further information, including eligibility criteria and an online application form, and advice is also available from investin@bury.gov.uk

Restart grants are administered directly by Bury Council to help businesses reopen safely as coronavirus restrictions are eased across the country. [Find out more](#) including guidance and eligibility criteria before applying.

Next update due Friday 21 May, 2021.

Find up-to-date information at bury.gov.uk/coronavirus



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