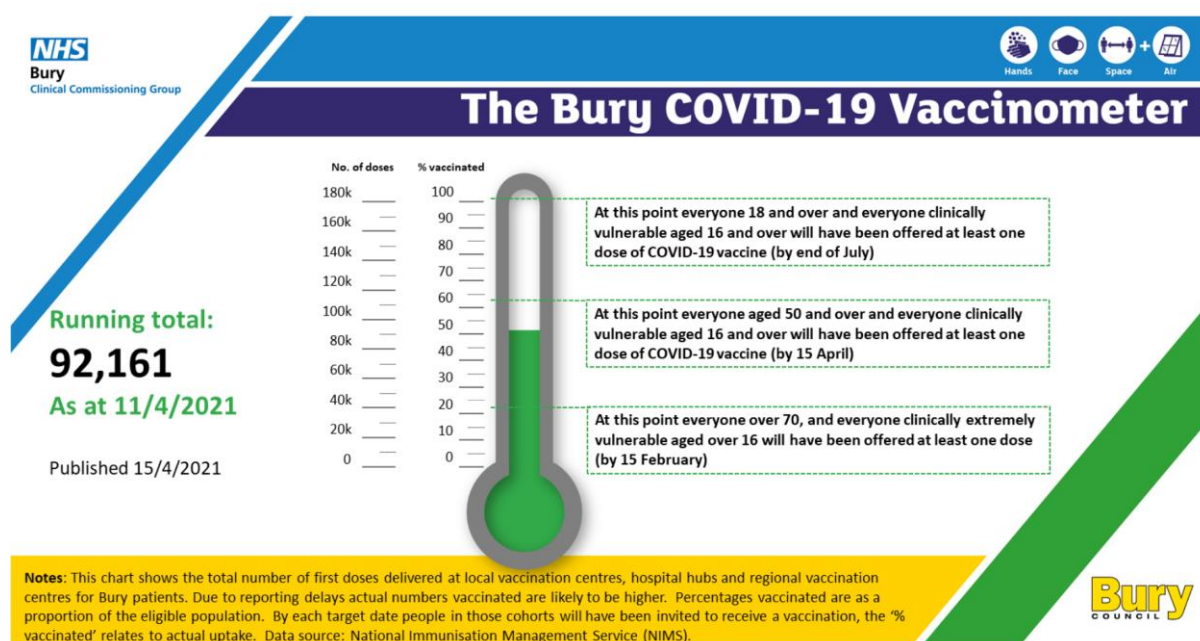


Latest Covid-19 advice for the borough of Bury – 16 April, 2021

92,000 Bury people have now had their first Covid vaccination

More than 92,000 people registered with a Bury GP have now had their first dose of the coronavirus vaccine - and more than 29,000 people in the top priority groups have already received their second jab, 11 weeks after they had their first vaccination.



Around 51% of the eligible population (182,100) have been given at least one of the two jabs necessary to protect against the potentially fatal illness.

Vaccinations have now moved beyond the original target of people in cohorts 1 to 9 (the over-50s and clinically vulnerable).



Hands



Face



Space



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If you are aged 45 and over you can visit the [National Booking Service](#) or call 119 to book your first dose appointment, which will be at a regional vaccination centre such as the Etihad. If you would prefer to receive your vaccine locally, your GP practice will be in touch as soon as first dose supplies become more available locally, which will likely be from May onwards.

Please remember:

- Vaccinations are given to people in the priority order set by the Government.
- The second dose of the vaccine is given 11 weeks after the first dose, and people 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.

Information about the Covid-19 vaccination

Recently there have been reports of a very rare condition involving blood clots and unusual bleeding after vaccination. Although this condition remains extremely rare, there appears to be a higher risk in people shortly after the first dose of the AstraZeneca (AZ) vaccine. Around 4 people develop this condition for every million doses of AZ vaccine given. This is seen slightly more often in younger people and tends to occur between 4 days and 2 weeks following vaccination. This condition can also occur naturally, and clotting problems are a common complication of Covid-19 infection. An increased risk has not yet been associated with other Covid-19 vaccines but the situation is being carefully monitored.

Read about the benefits and risks of the vaccination in this [useful information guide](#).

Let's Do It for Each Other, Let's Do It for Bury!

You might have spotted our new campaign - Let's Do It for Each Other, Let's Do It for Bury. Through the campaign we're asking people to be vigilant against the continuing threat of Covid-19.

With a further relaxation of the lockdown rules this week and large parts of our town centres now opening up, we're thanking people for everything they've done so far to get the infection rate down across Bury. And, while we have much to be hopeful about, we're reminding our residents to keep sticking to the rules and following the important basics of hands, face, space and keeping air circulating.

Running across social media channels, in the Bury Times, on Hits Radio and on prominent outdoor media across our six towns, the new campaign features 'real' people from across Bury, describing what they've been doing to stick to the rules, and what they're most looking forward to when the restrictions ease.



Hands



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A partnership pack explaining how you can help spread the word is attached to this email and comms assets are available [here](#).

Bury case rates continue to fall

The number of new cases of Covid-19 fell in the week up to 10 April to 31.4 per 100,000 people. Bury's rate of new cases was below the average for Greater Manchester but above the average for both the North West and England. The number of people in local hospitals with Covid-19 has fallen, and fewer deaths were registered in Bury with Covid-19 on the death certificate.

Week ending 10 April: infection rate per 100,000 (including LFT) 31.4 (60 new cases).

Week ending 3 April: infection rate per 100,000 (including LFT) 51.8 (99 new cases).

Week ending 27 March: infection rate per 100,000 (including LFT) 72.8 (139 new cases).

Week ending 20 March: infection rate per 100,000 (including LFT) 97.4 (186 new cases).

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.

Universal testing offer for everyone

Anyone without coronavirus symptoms can now access free rapid coronavirus testing twice a week as part of a national universal testing offer.

Rapid testing is for people who don't have coronavirus symptoms. The test 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 a more normal way of life.



Hands



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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 within 30 minutes if you are taking the test yourself. There are two main ways you can arrange a rapid test:

1. Assisted testing at a test centre.
2. At home using a self-test kit.

Assisted testing at a test centre

You can book an assisted rapid test at one of our testing centres, where one of our team will explain what to do. They 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 at:

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

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 self-test kits from a local testing site at certain times, from participating community pharmacies, or you can 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.

If you have a positive result

Anyone who has a positive rapid test result should self-isolate and will be required to take a follow-up PCR test 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 is 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 on our [testing information page](#).

Helping people through the toughest times

Support in the community

Shielding for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable has been paused and Bury's Community Hubs are stepping up to support them to spend more time outside the home.

As well as helping to organise ongoing arrangements for food shopping, hub staff and volunteers are accompanying people who haven't been out for some time for shopping and getting some exercise.

Our hubs are also 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 – this could be for things like food, collection of prescriptions or any other support.



Hands



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

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.

Business grant update

Following the launch of the latest phase of support for businesses, more than 350 applications have been received and these are being processed. As a quick reminder, there are a number of new funds that businesses may be eligible for:

Safe reopening fund

To support businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector, or those in the supply chain to those sectors, who will soon be able to reopen premises and that are not eligible for a Restart grant.

Recovery expertise

With the pandemic changing the ways we do business and requiring more businesses to adapt and evolve rapidly, this fund will support businesses in making those changes, enabling them to survive and thrive, through assistance for things like marketing and digital skills.

Town and district centre independent retail support fund

To support those retail businesses that have remained open during periods of restriction.

Tourism and culture fund

To support those businesses that promote our borough and culture and bring local, national and international visitors to spend in our economy.

Community facilities, social enterprises and charitable organisations funding

To support those organisations that until now have not been able to access funding through other government Covid-19 support.

Where to apply

The [Bury Means Business website](#) has further information including eligibility criteria and an online application form.

If you have queries about the guidance or your eligibility, please email investin@bury.gov.uk

Restart grants

These are available to help businesses reopen safely as coronavirus restrictions are eased across the country. [Find out more](#) including guidance and eligibility criteria before applying.



Hands



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Could you be a Community Champion?

If you want to stay up to date with the latest on coronavirus and are willing to pass on that information to your community, find out more about becoming a Bury Community Champion.

We have launched a Covid-19 Community Champions network and are aiming to sign up hundreds of residents across the borough.

Those who get involved will receive regular updates on the latest advice and guidance, as well as fortnightly webinars where they can put questions to Bury's Director of Public Health, Lesley Jones.

The Champions will also be able to raise issues and concerns from their local communities and identify barriers to accessing information. They will be invited to Microsoft Teams meetings with the public health team to discuss issues and ideas. Find out more about becoming a [Community Champion](#).

Preparing for Covid-safe local elections

The Bury Council elections will take place on Thursday 6 May 2021 and everyone is asked to do their bit to ensure the ballot is Covid-safe.

In a double poll, voters will also be asked to choose a Mayor for Greater Manchester after last year's elections were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Measures will be in place to ensure polling stations are safe, but any resident who is worried about voting in person can apply for a postal vote.

To register to vote - The deadline is midnight on Monday 19 April. It only takes five minutes [via this website](#).

For a postal vote – the deadline is 5pm on Tuesday 20 April. Call 0161 253 5252 or email Electionservices@bury.gov.uk

The election count will be live streamed on Friday 7 May and the results announced on the council's social media and website.

Next update due Friday 23 April, 2021.

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



Hands



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