

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

### Lockdown continues – thank you for doing your bit

“Stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives” continues to be the message across the country and here in Bury, as the borough continues to see increases in case rates and Covid-19 occupancy at our local hospitals at a higher level than the April 2020 peak.

Stopping the spread of coronavirus in our community is very much in our own gift. The best thing we can all do is stay at home as much as possible and, if we do need to go out, adhere to the two-metre social distancing rule, wear a face covering and keep our hands clean.

There’s no doubt this continues to be an extremely challenging time for the people of Bury. But there is an increasingly bright light at the end of the tunnel. The Covid-19 vaccination programme is well under way here in Bury with thousands of the over-80s, care home residents and workers and health and social care staff having already received a jab.

And we continue to provide multiple, convenient options for testing in the borough for people with symptoms, and a new testing offer for groups of key workers who do not have symptoms.

While cases of non-compliance tend to get highlighted, and there are understandable tensions when people are seen to be flouting lockdown, the vast majority of people are sticking to the rules. And we can see the result with what looks like a slowing of new cases in Bury.

Thank you for everything that you are doing as we face this pandemic. In Bury we Look Out for Each Other.

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## Case rates continue to increase – but may be slowing

The number of new cases of Covid-19 continued to increase in Bury in the week up to 9 January. The weekly rate of new cases was 461.8 per 100,000 people, an increase of 18.5% in a week. Although numbers of cases are still going up fast, there are early signs that the rate of increase is slowing. The increase in cases continues to be driven by working-age adults living in the general community, and we continue to see clusters and outbreaks linked to workplaces, care homes, and health care settings. The number of patients in local hospitals with Covid-19 has been increasing this week after staying broadly flat and is at a high level compared to the previous peak in April 2020.

Week ending 9 January: infection rate 461.8 (882 new cases)

Week Ending 2 January: infection rate 389.5 (744 new cases)

Week Ending 26 December: infection rate 236.7 (452 new cases)

Week Ending 19 December: infection rate 207.8 (396 new cases)

## Fourth borough vaccination centre opens its doors

Bury's fourth community Covid-19 vaccination centre opens in Ramsbottom today, joining the three existing sites in Prestwich, Radcliffe and the Town Hall's Elizabethan Suite.

The vaccinations, offered by invitation only, are initially being given to priority groups identified by scientists and the Government as those who will benefit most. With the majority of people aged 80+ now having been invited for a jab, people aged 75 to 79 are now being booked in and the rollout to care home residents and health and social care workers also continues.

Residents who are eligible for a vaccination will be contacted by their GP when it is their turn, and people are asked not to contact their GP practice about the vaccine before then.

Keep up to speed on the vaccination rollout in Bury at: <https://www.bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-vaccine>

## Getting tested in Bury

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 3-5 days of symptoms.

A range of testing options is available right across the borough.

No appointment needed at Bury's walk-through testing centre, open 10am-3pm, Monday-Friday: Chesham Fold, 95 Chesham Fold Road, Bury BL9 6JZ.



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The existing walk-through service at the Mosses Centre in Bury will be converted to support our targeted community testing programme for key workers without symptoms from next week, and so the last day of operation as a walk-through centre for symptomatic people will be tomorrow.

By appointment 8am-8pm, with some locations open seven days a week at Department for Health & Social Care testing centres:

- 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 centre at Waterfold Business Park is temporarily closed for essential maintenance.

For the latest information about testing and availability visit [www.bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-testing](http://www.bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-testing) or call 0161 253 5515.

## Schools open to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers

Bury primary schools and secondary schools have moved to remote learning for the majority of pupils, in line with the national lockdown restrictions.

Schools remain open for pupils classed as vulnerable and for the children of critical workers: however, the definition of critical workers is wider than it was in March and this has led to concern that some schools in England risk becoming too crowded.

Bury Council is therefore underlining the latest government advice which urges parents to support the effort to reduce contact as much as possible.

"If you are a critical worker and you can keep your child at home, then you should do so," says Julien Kramer, the council's interim assistant director (education and inclusion) in a letter to schools and parents.

Rapid result lateral flow testing began for staff in secondary schools in Bury this week and the intention is to extend this to primary schools and early years settings once the process has been established.

Schools staff are being supported by NHS colleagues in ensuring the testing programme is a success. Parents are also being reminded of the continuing importance of getting their children tested if they develop Covid-19 symptoms.



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## Helping people through the toughest time

### ***Support in the community***

Support for clinically extremely vulnerable residents who have been asked to shield, other vulnerable residents and residents who need to self-isolate continues through the Bury Community Hubs.

The hubs can help with food shopping and collecting prescriptions as well as telephone befriending and support to get online for things like priority supermarket delivery slots.

The Community Hubs are working with partners in mental health, Bury VCFA, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Age UK and Bury Community Support Network which includes access to foodbanks in Bury. We have a network of individual volunteers in every part of Bury who we can 'buddy' you up with for regular chats, support to get online, help to collect your prescriptions and medication, and they can help with your shopping too.

Call 0161 253 5353 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for information or to talk to us about what support 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 about other mental wellbeing support at [www.bury.gov.uk/mentalwellbeing](http://www.bury.gov.uk/mentalwellbeing)

## Grants for business

Our dedicated business support team continues to work tirelessly to get financial support to Bury companies large and small across the whole range of sectors.

So far more than 90% of a total pot of £51 million has been distributed to those who have been hit by successive lockdowns and local restrictions.

Details of funding to businesses, eligibility criteria and how to apply is available at [burymeansbusiness.bury.gov.uk](http://burymeansbusiness.bury.gov.uk)

If you don't already subscribe to the Bury Means Business weekly bulletin sharing all things business-related in the borough, please do sign up. This is one of the quickest ways that we can share information with the Bury business community.



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Next update due Thursday 21 January, 2021.

Find up-to-date information at [bury.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://bury.gov.uk/coronavirus)



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