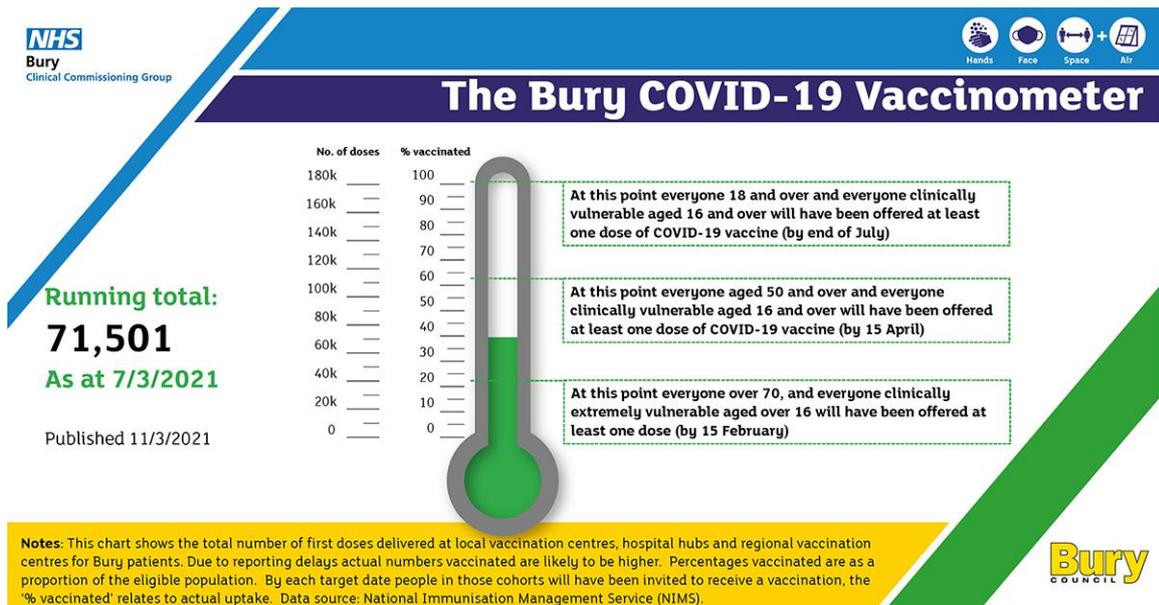


Latest Covid-19 advice for the borough of Bury – 12 March, 2021

Bury vaccinations pass the 70k mark

Around 71,500 people registered with a Bury GP have now been vaccinated against coronavirus. This means that more than 39% of the eligible population (182,100) have been given at least one of the two jobs necessary to protect against this potentially fatal illness.



Bury's jabs are being carried out by medical staff at four vaccination centres run by the Primary Care Networks: the Elizabethan Suite in Bury, Bealey's in Radcliffe, Ramsbottom Civic Hall and Prestwich Walk-in Centre.

Bury's vaccination figures now also include local residents who are vaccinated at hospital and mass vaccination centres such as the Etihad.



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Vaccination targets:

- By 15 Feb: everyone aged 70+ and clinically extremely vulnerable people over 16 = 39,400 people. *Completed.*
- By 15 April: everyone aged 50+ and clinically vulnerable people over 16 = a further 72,700 people.
- By end July: everyone 18+ and clinically vulnerable people aged 16 and 17 = the remaining 70,000 people.

Frontline health and social care staff are also being vaccinated as priority groups.

Remember:

- Vaccinations are given to people in the priority order set by the Government
- Vaccination is by invitation only and you will be contacted when it is your turn. Depending on the priority group you are in, you may be contacted by your GP practice (by letter, phone or text message which will include a link to book an appointment) or you may receive a letter from the NHS.
- If you are aged 60 or over and have not yet received the first dose of the vaccine, please contact your GP practice. Otherwise, please wait to be contacted.
- If you receive a letter from the NHS inviting you to one of the national vaccination centres, but would prefer to receive your vaccination locally, you can choose to wait and your GP practice will be in touch. Please do not contact your GP practice before then.
- The second dose of the vaccine is given at 11 weeks after the first dose, and you 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 getting the vaccine in Bury at www.bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-vaccine

Case rates in Bury drop sharply again

The number of new cases of Covid-19 in Bury fell sharply in the week up to 6 March, when the rate stood at 84.3 per 100,000. Despite the rapid fall in rates, Bury was still 45th among all upper tier local authority areas in England and had the 7th highest rate in the North West. The sharpest falls in cases have been among working age adults, but new cases of Covid-19 have fallen in all age groups and in all ethnic groups, and in most of Bury's neighbourhoods. Despite the fall in new cases, the number of people in local hospitals with Covid-19 has remained steady in some hospitals and has fallen slowly in others, and we continue to see new deaths registered in Bury with Covid-19 on the death certificate.

LFT (Lateral Flow Antigen Testing) rapid tests for asymptomatic people are now being added to the weekly case total.

Week ending 6 March: infection rate (including LFT) 84.3 (161 new cases)

Week ending 27 February: infection rate (including LFT) 155 (296 new cases)

Week ending 20 February: infection rate (including LFT) 234.6 (448 new cases)

Week ending 13 February: infection rate (including LFT) 202.1 (386 new cases)



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Got Covid-19 symptoms? Here's how to get 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.

By appointment 8am-12noon 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 site at Waterfold Business Park is open by appointment only.

For the latest information about testing and availability visit www.bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-testing or call 0161 253 5515.

Rapid community coronavirus testing for people who can't work at home

In Bury we are operating a targeted community testing programme which offers rapid testing to people who can't work from home, and who do not have coronavirus symptoms but could have the infection and therefore could pass the virus on to others without knowing it.

The lateral flow test takes approximately five minutes at one of our testing facilities. The results are available in around 30 minutes and are sent directly by email or SMS to the person's mobile device. There is no need to wait at the testing site for the result.

At the borough's two targeted testing sites (Waterfold Business Park and Mosses Community Centre) there is capacity to carry out around 200 tests per day. Access to targeted community testing is by appointment only for anyone who can't work from home, and you can book via this link: <https://nhsburyccg.simplybook.cc/v2/>



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Covid-19 testing support for business

The Government is offering businesses a supply of lateral flow test devices to do rapid Covid-19 tests at their premises. As described above, the results of these tests are known within 30 minutes.

This programme is open to businesses where some or all of their workers can't work from home. It's critical that businesses take part in this programme as it will help to identify outbreaks earlier, reducing the number of people who could come into contact with the virus and limit the impact on the wider economy.

If your business is interested in taking part in testing you must sign up by the end of March 2021: you can get further information at <https://www.gov.uk/get-workplace-coronavirus-tests> or by contacting buccg.covid19testing@nhs.net.

For those businesses where it is not practical to set up a Covid-19 testing service, their workforce can use the test centres at Waterfold and Mosses as described above, using the following link <https://nhsburyccg.simplybook.cc/v2/>

Rapid testing of school and college students under way

School and college students in Bury have been welcomed back to their classrooms this week – and have been getting used to having regular tests.

Secondary school and further education students are being offered three lateral flow tests in their first two weeks back.

Schools in Bury have been taking a phased approach to this, with some bringing in year groups on different days for their first test.

The testing is being supported by teaching and other staff, particularly at Bury College and Holy Cross Sixth Form Centre which have both brought in additional staff to support this.

In addition, volunteers from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service have been supporting local schools.

From their third week back at school, students will be asked to take the rapid results tests at home. The tests will also be available, free of charge, to all families and households with primary, secondary and college-age children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles.

A third of people who have coronavirus show no symptoms and could be spreading the virus unknowingly. Targeted, regular testing will mean that more positive cases in households are found – meaning that those who test positive can self-isolate immediately.

This can make the difference between children being able to stay in school or whole classes being sent home due to an outbreak.



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The lateral flow test kits can be collected from the five Department of Health and Social Care testing sites in Bury [www.bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-testing], between 1.30pm and 7pm.

They will be provided as two packs of seven, and are free of charge.

Helping people through the toughest time

Support in the community

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

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



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Community Champions are here!

Want to stay up to date with the latest on coronavirus, and willing to pass on that information to your community? Then find out more about becoming a Bury Community Champion.

Last week Bury Council launched its Covid-19 Community Champions network, and we're 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 live fortnightly webinars where they can put questions to the council's Director of Public Health.

The Champions will also be able to raise issues and concerns from their local communities and identify barriers to accessing accurate information. They will be invited to Teams meetings with the Public Health team to discuss issues and ideas.

Want to know more? Please visit: www.bury.gov.uk/communitychampions

Grant payments reaching businesses in need

Grant payments from multiple funding pots continue to be made to Bury businesses coping with the financial effects of the coronavirus lockdown.

The council's economic development team has worked with local businesses to develop grant support packages aimed at helping companies of different sizes and types whose survival is crucial to Bury's economy and local jobs, and at those who have not received help so far.

Information on the various grants and other support available is on the Bury Means Business website [here](#) and help and advice is available by emailing Investin@bury.gov.uk

Working together to deliver a successful Census 2021

Bury Council and the Office for National Statistics are working to deliver a successful Census and help local services to fully meet future needs.

Understanding the needs of the nation helps everyone from central government to local organisations, such as councils and health authorities, plan and fund public services across England



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and Wales. Census data informs where public funding is spent on services like transport, education and health – on everything from cycle routes to schools and dental surgeries.

The census, which takes place on 21 March 2021, will shed light on the needs of different groups and communities, and the inequalities that people are experiencing, ensuring that the big decisions facing the country following the coronavirus pandemic and EU exit are based on the best information possible.

The collection of data this year is particularly important as the pandemic has had an impact on everyone's life in some way. This census will record these changes and help provide the data on which we can build the future.

Households will receive letters in March with details of how to complete the census online. People can request a paper questionnaire if they'd prefer to complete the census that way. In areas where lower online completion is expected, around 10% of households will receive a traditional paper form through the post.

There is plenty of help available: residents can also complete the census over the phone with assistance from trained staff via the ONS's freephone contact centre. The ONS also aims to provide in-person support to complete the census online through Census Support Centres where it is safe to do so.

The main census field operation will begin only after Census Day, contacting those who have not responded. Field staff will never need to enter people's houses; they will always be socially distanced, wear PPE and work in line with government guidance. They will be operating in the same way as a postal or food delivery visit.

Census 2021 will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available in 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information and advice on how to answer the questions, visit www.census.gov.uk

Next update due Friday 19 March, 2021.

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



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