

Public health briefing for the borough of Bury – 17 December, 2021

Bury set to deliver boosters in double quick time

As Omicron becomes the dominant variant of Covid-19 across the UK, cases are rising sharply every day and are set to continue to do so. This national picture is reflected in Bury and Greater Manchester.

The vaccine remains our greatest weapon against the virus. In Bury we will be delivering tens of thousands of booster vaccinations over the next few weeks, along with first and second jabs to those who still need them.

To meet this huge task, capacity has been ramped up through all of our local delivery sites in Ramsbottom, Bury, Radcliffe and Prestwich, at Fairfield General Hospital, at seven local pharmacies and at the Mass Vaccination Centre at the Etihad Campus in Manchester.

Our GP and pharmacy colleagues will provide key clinical staff for local clinics and we are expecting to redeploy suitably skilled Bury NHS CCG and Bury Council staff for non-clinical roles. Our partners such as Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Greater Manchester Police and Six Town Housing are also making staff available.

We also anticipate that additional volunteers will be required to help run the centres smoothly and we are urging people to look out for less mobile friends and neighbours and help them with transport to vaccination appointments. To find out more about volunteering at a vaccine centre go to www.buryvcfa.org.uk/volunteering

With everyone pulling together we are confident we can meet the challenge. See how to book your vaccination below.



Let's stay safe - a reminder of everything we can do to stop the spread of Covid-19

'Plan B' measures to combat the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 are now in force.

Wearing face coverings is now compulsory in shops and most indoor spaces like theatres and cinemas. They are not required – for practical reasons – in hospitality venues like restaurants, cafes and bars where people are eating and drinking.

People who can work from home are advised to do so.

The NHS Covid Pass on the NHS App is now mandatory for entry into nightclubs and settings where large crowds gather. People will be able to demonstrate proof of two vaccine doses via the App. Proof of a negative lateral flow test will also be accepted.

As well as following the guidance, there is much more we can do to help stop the spread. Remember:

- Minimise the number, proximity and duration of social contacts
- Take a Lateral Flow Test before going out or meeting others
- Meet outside as much as possible, and keep indoor spaces ventilated
- Continue to wash or clean your hands frequently.

Also: please continue to test, to isolate if positive or if asked to by NHS Test and Trace, and make sure that (when eligible) you and your family members go for your vaccinations at the earliest opportunity. Most people have had their vaccinations already and the jabs are working!

It all helps, and we thank everyone in Bury for remaining cautious, being considerate and, above all, staying safe.

Latest epidemiology shows start of sharp case rise

The number of new cases of Covid-19 increased in the week to 11 December, when Bury had the second highest rate in Greater Manchester with 563.2 cases per 100,000 people. We are expecting very rapid increases in case numbers in the coming days. This is largely caused by the increasing dominance of the Omicron variant, which now makes up more than half of Bury's cases. Case numbers continue to be highest among school-aged children and working-age adults, but are increasing in all age groups. The number of people in local hospitals with Covid-19 has stayed constant, although the number of Covid-19 admissions each day may be now increasing. We continue to have deaths from Covid-19 in Bury.

7-day case figures:

Week ending 11 December: infection rate per 100,000 – 563.2 (1,074 new cases).

Week ending 4 December: infection rate per 100,000 – 454.6 (867 new cases).

Week ending 27 November: infection rate per 100,000 – 383.8 (732 new cases).

Week ending 20 November: infection rate per 100,000 – 403.2 (769 new cases).

New rules for self-isolation as Omicron bites

As we try to limit the spread of the Omicron variant, rules around isolation for people who have been in contact with someone who has Covid-19 have changed again:

- Anyone aged between 5 and 18-and a half, or aged over 18 and double-vaccinated should take a rapid lateral flow test for seven days since their last contact with someone with Covid-19.
- If you are aged over 18 and you are not vaccinated, or have only had one vaccination, you must isolate for ten days.

Rapid lateral flow (LFT) tests are available from local pharmacies, online, and available for collection from the Mosses Centre in Bury. See details below.

It remains the case that anyone with Covid-19 [symptoms](#) should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. You should [arrange to have a PCR test](#) as soon as possible. If this PCR test result is positive, you must continue to self-isolate.

Even if you do not have Covid-19 symptoms, but you have a positive PCR test result, you must stay at home and self-isolate.

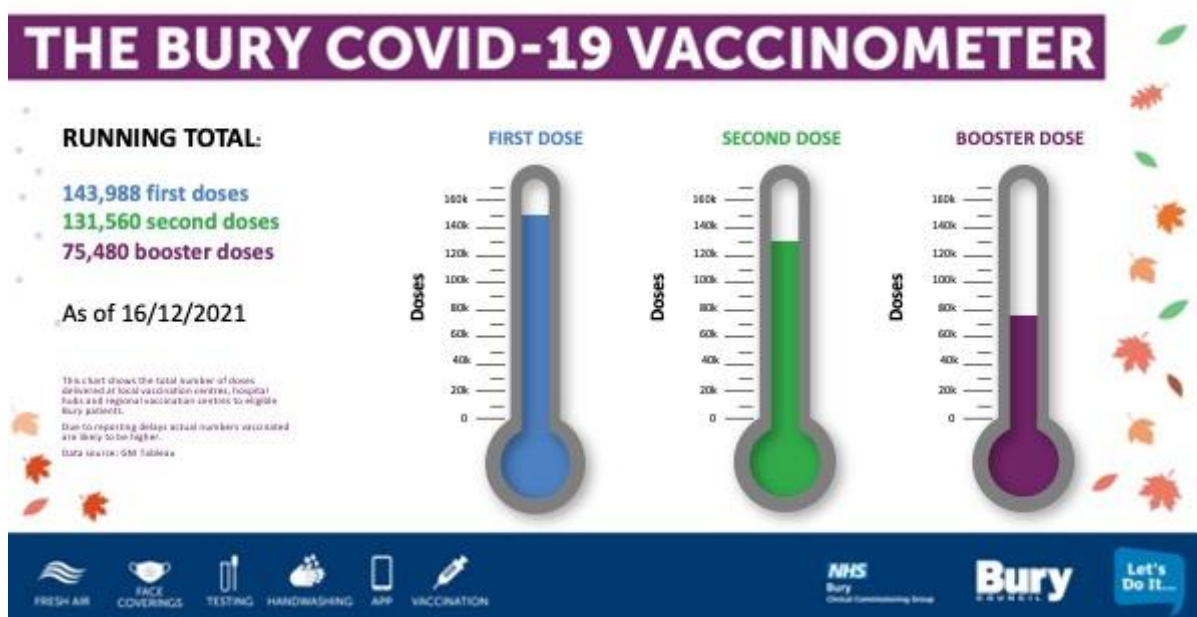
If you are required to stay at home and self-isolate, or if you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate, you may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#)

Bury's Community Hubs are there for anyone who needs support, including those who are self-isolating. To access essential help, call 0161 253 5353 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday – excluding bank holidays) or text 07860 022876 (messages responded to by the next working day). Further information is [on the community hubs webpage](#).

More than 10k boosters delivered in one week

Latest figures show that 75,480 people in Bury have now received a Covid-19 booster vaccination.

A total of 143,988 people in Bury have now received a first Covid vaccination, and 131,560 have had their second jab. Bury's clinics continue to work at pace, administering thousands of Covid-19 and flu vaccinations every week.



How to get your Covid-19 vaccination in Bury

It's easy and convenient to get your Covid-19 vaccination in Bury.

Booster

Everyone aged over 18 can get a Covid booster jab, if it has been at least three months (91 days) since their second dose.

Most people will be offered a booster dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine or Moderna vaccine. Some people may be offered a booster dose of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine if they cannot have the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine.

Covid-19 first and second doses

For those aged 18+ (including within 3 months of turning 18) first and second vaccinations are available at any walk-in clinic or bookable clinic. Second doses will be given at 8+ weeks since the first.

For those aged 16 or 17, first vaccinations are available at a walk-in clinic or a bookable clinic. Second vaccinations for 16 and 17-year-olds are not currently available at walk-ins – for a second jab, booking ahead is required, and it should be 12 weeks since first vaccination.

12 to 15-year-old vaccination programme

Vaccinations for 12 to 15-year-olds can be booked at vaccination clinics via the National Booking Service or by calling 119.

Note: Vaccinations for 12 to 15-year-olds **are not** currently available at Bury's four vaccination clinics.

Flu vaccinations

Free flu vaccinations are available for eligible patients registered with a Bury GP practice, and are available at all of Bury's vaccination centres and many local pharmacies. Priority at Bury's vaccination centres will be given to pre-booked flu vaccination appointments; however, walk-ins without an appointment for flu vaccinations will only go ahead where capacity allows, and there may be a wait. To guarantee an appointment, please pre-book.

Where to get a vaccination

Bury has four local centres offering both flu and Covid-19 vaccines:

Ramsbottom Civic Hall

Elizabethan Suite, **Bury**

Radcliffe United Reformed Church

Prestwich Walk-in Centre.

These clinics offer frequent walk-in, no need to book, sessions (see below). But to ensure smooth running and to minimise queuing we are encouraging residents to book to avoid waiting in a queue and guarantee they will be jabbed.

Vaccinations are also available at seven pharmacy sites in Bury:

Bury

Asda Pharmacy, Spring Street, Bury

Strachan's Chemist, Walmersley Road, Bury

Prestwich

Cohens Chemist, St Gabriel's Medical Centre Pharmacy, Prestwich

Radcliffe

Asda Pharmacy, Radcliffe

Well Pharmacy, Church St West, Radcliffe

Whitefield

Barash Pharmacy, Bury New Road, Whitefield

Well Pharmacy, Elms Square Precinct, Whitefield

Booking

For Ramsbottom, Bury, Radcliffe or Prestwich vaccination centres – book at

covid.nhsbookings.com/gmpcn

For booking at pharmacies, Fairfield Hospital, and the Manchester Mass Vaccination Centre at the Etihad Campus (and for Elizabethan Suite and Ramsbottom), call 119 or click through to the [National Booking Service](#)

Walk-ins

Bury offers multiple options for walk-ins for first vaccinations (aged 16+) and second vaccinations (aged 18+), boosters (aged 18+), and flu (Bury patients only). Please be aware that you may have a short wait if you just walk in.

Date	Venue	Time
Saturday 18 December	Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AJ	8.30am–5.30pm
Sunday 19 December	Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AJ	8.30am–5.30pm
Monday 20 December	Elizabethan Suite, Town Hall, Knowsley Street, Bury, BL9 0SW	8.30am–6pm
Monday 20 December	Prestwich Vaccination Clinic, Prestwich Walk-in Centre building, Fairfax Road, Prestwich, M25 1BT	9am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm
Monday 20 December	Radcliffe United Reformed Church, Blackburn Street, Radcliffe, M26 3WQ	8.30am–4pm
Monday 20 December	Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AJ	8.30am–5.30pm
Tuesday 21 December	Elizabethan Suite, Town Hall, Knowsley Street, Bury, BL9 0SW	8.30am–6pm
Tuesday 21 December	Prestwich Vaccination Clinic, Prestwich Walk-in Centre building, Fairfax Road, Prestwich, M25 1BT	9am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm
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Wednesday 22 December	Prestwich Vaccination Clinic, Prestwich Walk-in Centre building, Fairfax Road, Prestwich, M25 1BT	9am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm

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Wednesday 22 December	Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AJ	8.30am–5.30pm
Thursday 23 December	Elizabethan Suite, Town Hall, Knowsley Street, Bury, BL9 0SW	8.30am – 6pm
Thursday 23 December	Prestwich Vaccination Clinic, Prestwich Walk-in Centre building, Fairfax Road, Prestwich, M25 1BT	9am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm
Thursday 23 December	Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AJ	8.30am–5.30pm

AstraZeneca second doses are offered as walk-in or booked appointments at these special sessions:

Saturday 18 December	Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AJ	2pm–3pm
Sunday 19 December	Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AJ	2pm–3pm

Heading out and about? Take a test to stop the spread

Going somewhere that's likely to be busy, or visiting someone who is at higher risk of becoming seriously ill from Covid? Take a rapid Lateral Flow Test (LFT) before you go for peace of mind.

Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 can pass it on even if they have no symptoms and have been vaccinated. Testing before going out to busy places gives you reassurance that you are unlikely to be infected with Covid-19, and therefore unlikely to spread the virus.

LFT tests are widely available and free. They are most useful at identifying Covid-19 in people without any symptoms: it takes less than 30 minutes to get a result, and they are 80-90% effective in detecting Covid-19 when someone is at their most infectious.

Some places still have their own specific testing rules and guidance; for example, schools and colleges still ask for twice-weekly LFT testing, and there are also specific rules in place for health and social care settings. You should always make sure you are aware of this guidance if you visit or work in these places.

Remember, LFT test results – whether positive or negative - should be registered [online](#) or by phoning 119. If you test positive, you should go for a PCR test to confirm the result. Anyone who tests positive should self-isolate and check if any other people they live with will also need to self-isolate.

LFT tests are available from some pharmacies, and they can be collected from Bury's Mosses Centre testing site or delivered directly to your home. See more details in the testing section below.

It's best to test!

In Bury, we have multiple options for people to test for Covid-19.

LFT (Lateral Flow Testing)

Self-testing with LFT test kits is easy to do at home or at work. There are several ways to get LFT kits:

- Collect them from a community pharmacy – find a participating outlet [here](#). You'll need a collect code which you can request [here](#).
- Collect them from the Mosses Centre in Bury - just [book](#) a Click and Collect slot.
- Order online [here](#) and they'll be sent to your home.

If you do an LFT test, you need to register your results online or by phoning 119. Anyone who has a positive LFT test result should self-isolate and take a follow-up PCR test within two days, even if they don't have symptoms.

Getting a PCR test

If you have any of the three most common symptoms of Covid-19 (a new continuous cough, high temperature, loss or change of sense of taste or smell) get a PCR test as soon as possible to protect yourself and those around you. The PCR test you take will be analysed at a laboratory and you will receive the results by text message, email or telephone.

A range of PCR testing options are available in Bury:

- No appointment required - Chesham Fold, Chesham Fold Road, Bury BL9 6JZ (9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday, closed on bank holidays)
- Appointment only - Mosses Centre, Cecil Street, Bury BL9 0SB. [Book online](#).
- Appointment only – Department of Health sites located in Prestwich, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom and Whitefield. [Book online](#). Note: on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day the sites will be open from 10am until 2pm.
- [Order](#) a home testing kit (delivered by post).

Call 0161 253 5515 to speak to someone about testing, how to book and availability or find more information [here](#).

Helping people through difficult times

Life has changed for all of us through the pandemic, 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 (open throughout the festive season, Monday to Saturday) on 0161 464 3679. [Find out more](#) about other mental wellbeing support.

Keep ahead with cold weather alerts!

Cold weather can be really dangerous, especially for people aged 65 and above. As we get older it takes longer to warm up, which raises the risk of increased blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes. Older people can also suffer serious harm if they slip and fall in icy conditions.

We're advising people to sign up to the Met Office's email alerts [here](#) so that they can get early warnings of bad weather and make necessary preparations.

Age UK and the UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England) have teamed up to produce some really helpful hints and tips for staying warm and well, perfect for printing out to give to older friends and relatives. Find them [here](#)

Public health updates will be issued over the Christmas and New Year period as and when needed.

The next issue of this briefing will be on 7 January, 2022.

For up-to-date information about Covid-19 visit bury.gov.uk/coronavirus