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## Latest COVID-19 information and advice for the borough of Bury November 27, 2020

### Bury to return to Tier 3 when lockdown ends

Bury has been placed into Tier 3: Very High alert when the National Lockdown ends at 12.01am on December 2.

Coronavirus rates are coming down in the borough – see figures below - but are still among the highest in the North West. However, if everyone continues to follow the restrictions we can keep the number of infections down and go into the Christmas period in a much better situation.

Many businesses are allowed to re-open, including essential and non-essential retail and personal care and close contact services such as hairdressers and barbers, beauty salons, tattoo parlours, nail salons, spas and beauty services, massage parlours and tanning salons.

Public buildings, such as libraries, community centres and halls; allotments and recycling and waste centres can re-open, along with leisure and sports facilities (group exercise classes should not go ahead).

However, regulations are stricter than the previous Tier 3, meaning hospitality settings, such as bars, pubs, cafes and restaurants, are only permitted to continue sales by takeaway, click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery services.

Meeting people socially remains restricted; you should not meet anybody you do not live with, or who is not in your support bubble, indoors or in most outdoor places, including private gardens.

You must not socialise in a group of more than 6 in outdoor public spaces, including parks, beaches, countryside, public gardens, heritage sites or sports facilities.

Everyone who can work from home should do. All businesses and venues that are open are expected to follow COVID-19 secure guidelines to protect customers, visitors and workers.

Guidance has also been issued on forming a Christmas bubble between three households, so families can get together over the holiday period while still limiting the spread of the virus.

For now we remain in national lockdown, and these restrictions must be followed until the Tier 3 rules come into place.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

## Continued fall in COVID-19 cases

Numbers of new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Bury continued to fall in the week up to November 21 2020, when the weekly rate of new cases stood at 314.2 per 100,000. This fall in new cases continues to be driven by falls in cases among working age adults.

This is consistent with Tier 3 restrictions and national restrictions from November 5 taking effect. Despite these falls, Bury still has the fourth highest rate of COVID-19 cases in the North West and the third highest in Greater Manchester\*.

Numbers of people in hospital with COVID-19 have fallen, but do still remain above the peak in April. We continue to see deaths registered in Bury with COVID-19 on the death certificate.

It's important that we stay at home as much as possible and limit social contacts to keep driving the rates down. And when we do go out it's vital to keep on with three simple actions that go a long way to stopping the spread of coronavirus:

- Wash hands – keep washing your hands regularly
- Cover face – wear a face covering in enclosed spaces
- Make space – stay at least 2 metres apart – or 1m with a face covering or other protection.

The four-week summary in Bury:

Week ending November 21: infection rate 314.2 (600 new cases)

Week ending November 14: infection rate 466.5 (891 new cases)

Week ending November 7: infection rate 571.8 (1092 new cases)

Week ending October 31: infection rate 568.1 (1085 new cases)

\*North West figures are based on Upper Tier Local Authorities of which there are 23 in the North West, Bury ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the North West if lower tier local authorities are included.

## Bury progresses plans for vaccine arrival

As you'll have read in the national news, there have been a number of encouraging results from clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines in recent weeks.

At this stage, none of the vaccines are yet approved for users outside clinical trials. There are a number of important steps that still need to happen before the vaccines can be used more widely.

These include:

- The relevant regulator needs to review the data from the clinical trials to make sure any vaccine is safe and effective. You can see the UK regulator's statement on one of the COVID-19 vaccines [here](#).
- The groups of people who will be eligible for the vaccine and the priority order in which the vaccine will be rolled out need to be confirmed. This will be based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. You can see their interim advice [here](#).

In anticipation of the arrival of a vaccine, work is underway to plan local delivery. This includes work nationally, regionally, and locally, with local delivery being led by GPs, local NHS organisations and Bury Public Health.

We will keep patients and the public informed as our plans develop.

## Support is at hand

As lockdown and restrictions continue, there are people who need assistance, both financial and practical. Bury's public services are here to help.

### ***Support for the clinically extremely vulnerable***

Through its Community Hubs network, Bury Council is reaching out to the extremely clinically vulnerable to ensure they have the support they need until December 2, and beyond as required.

Help can be given with food shopping and collecting prescriptions as well as telephone befriending support and support to get online for things like supermarket deliveries.

Call 0161 253 5353 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for information or if you need a hand.

### ***Mental health support***

Coronavirus means that life has changed for all of us for a while, 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 for people of all ages that are experiencing difficulties with their mental wellbeing.

Run by the voluntary sector, you can access advice, guidance and signposting to local services by calling the Getting Help Line on: 0161 464 3679, Monday to Saturday, 8am to 8pm. Find out more about other mental wellbeing support at: [www.bury.gov.uk/mentalwellbeing](http://www.bury.gov.uk/mentalwellbeing)

### ***Business support***

A £3m package of financial help for local companies forced to close by the national coronavirus lockdown is now being distributed.

Local Restrictions Support Grants provide financial help to firms that have had to shut their doors, including pubs, non-essential retail, hospitality venues, accommodation, leisure and sports facilities, entertainment venues and personal care facilities.

Businesses can check if they are eligible for a grant, and apply for one, on the council's website at <https://www.bury.gov.uk/covid19grants>

The council is also finalising plans to distribute Additional Restrictions Grants, of up to £4 million, to businesses which have been severely affected by the lockdown rather than closed.

The council has drawn up a list of priority areas for the first tranche of these grants:

- Bury and Radcliffe market traders
- Companies within the events sector
- Companies in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors - who are legally required to close, occupy a rateable premise, but do not pay rates
- Companies whose main service is supplying businesses legally required to close in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector
- Childcare organisations within commercial settings.

The council's dedicated Bury Means Business team is here to help all businesses with advice and help during the pandemic: go to <https://burymeansbusiness.bury.gov.uk/> for more details.

### ***Financial support for individuals, including for those self-isolating***

A scheme that offers a one-off £500 payment to those asked to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Track and Trace is open for applications. Aimed at those on low incomes, a payment will be made to people who cannot work from home and will lose income as a result. Further details and an application form are available at [www.bury.gov.uk/isolation-payments](http://www.bury.gov.uk/isolation-payments)

For those experiencing financial difficulty, the government's website offers help and advice. Find out more here: [gov.uk/coronavirus/worker-support](http://gov.uk/coronavirus/worker-support)

## **Getting Tested**

Bury's newest test centre – in Ramsbottom – opened yesterday. We are committed to make sure that everyone in Bury who needs a test for COVID-19, gets one.

Please only request a test if you have symptoms - a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste. Get tested within the first 3-5 days of symptoms.

***Full list of testing options:***

- Walk-through testing centres (no appointment needed) at the Mosses Centre and Chesham Fold (open 10am-3pm, Mon-Fri)
- Drive-through testing (by appointment) at Waterfold Business Park
- Department for Health & Social Care testing centres (by appointment):
  - Great Eaves Road test site, Great Eaves Road, Ramsbottom, BLO OPX (open 8am-8pm, Mon-Sun)
  - The former Radcliffe Pool car park, Blackburn Street (open 8am-8pm, Mon-Sun)
  - Whitefield Library, Pinfold Lane, Whitefield (open 8am-8pm, Mon-Sun)
  - The Metro Christian Centre, 13 Parkhills Road (8am-8pm Mon-Sat)
  - Longfield Centre car park (via Rectory Lane), Prestwich (open 8am-8pm, Mon-Sun)
- Tests at regional sites/home test kits are also available.

### ***How to book***

With the exception of our walk-through testing centres where no appointment is needed; people requesting a test need to book an appointment in advance. The way you book an appointment varies by location as the testing sites are run in different ways by different providers. You can find all the information you need on booking and testing generally in one place:

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-testing> or call 0161 253 5515.

## **Isolation**

Self-isolating in an appropriate and timely way is one of the best lines of defence we have against the spread of coronavirus.

If you're asked to self-isolate, please comply. If you have any of the symptoms of coronavirus please isolate immediately and get tested. And once you have had a coronavirus test, please go home and stay there until you have your result and then act accordingly.

Bury Community Hubs can help with shopping or prescription needs for those self-isolating. Call 0161 253 5353 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for information.

## **Bury 2030 – shaping our masterplan for the next decade**

The eight-week consultation to shape the future of our borough continues; please take a look at the proposals and tell us what your perfect Bury would look like in ten years' time.

The Bury 2030 masterplan shape plans for the future of jobs, health, education and the environment for the next decade and beyond. At the heart is a new relationship between local communities, commerce, the council and public service providers.

Actioning the masterplan will be a key factor in our borough's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

Five themes underpin the plan:

Healthy Communities: helping people to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing and be able to access more support in their community. Also: giving children the best start in life, focusing on families who need extra support in the early years.

Carbon neutral: creating a greener, carbon-free borough and redesigning our towns and services to change behaviour and reduce negative effects on the environment.

Inclusion: making sure that everyone's voice is heard, with new ways of engaging at local level through the new Community Hubs in each township, connected to new jobs and new developments in the borough.

Digital first: to make our services more accessible and online and ensuring people have the skills and facilities to connect with them.

Inclusive Growth: this includes investment in physical infrastructure (roads, cycle ways and public transport); creating more office space and better quality workplaces to encourage more businesses to open and remain in Bury; to ensure residents have the best chance to access good jobs through school improvement, further and higher education, apprenticeships and adult skills.

To get involved, have your say and to download and read the full strategy, go to:  
<https://www.onecommunitybury.co.uk/bury-2030>

Next update due Thursday December 3, 2020.

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

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