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

COVID-19 cases have fallen

The number of new cases of COVID-19 fell in Bury in the week up to November 14, with a rate of 461.3 new cases per 100,000 people. This is 111 cases less than the previous week, and follows a plateauing of case rates the week before.

Coupled with increased testing rates over the past week, and that the percentage of tests that were positive fell (from 15.5% from 18.2%) this is extremely welcome news.

The downward trend appears to reflect the introduction of Tier 3 restrictions and possibly shows the early impact of the national lockdown introduced on November 5.

However, despite the fall in new cases, Bury still has one of the highest infection rates in the country. Also, the number of people in local hospitals with COVID-19 remains above the April peak, and we continue to see deaths 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 14: infection rate 461.3 (881 new cases)

Week ending November 7: infection rate 572.3 (1093 new cases)

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

Week ending October 24: infection rate 540.3 (1032 new cases)

Support is at hand

As lockdown continues, 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

Business support

Has your business had to temporarily close due to lockdown? Applications for Local Restrictions Support Grants are now open.

Local Restrictions Support Grants provide financial help to businesses required to close during local and national lockdowns. These include businesses which have been required to close from:

- March 23, 2020 due to national restrictions, such as nightclubs. Grant payments are available for these businesses from November 1 and cannot be backdated.
- October 23 until November 4, 2020 due to Bury being placed in Tier 3. These include pubs, bars, casinos, adult gaming establishments, betting shops and soft play centres.
- November 5 until December 2, 2020 due to national lockdown restrictions. These include the business affected by the Tier 3 restrictions as well as all non-essential retail, hospitality venues, accommodation, leisure and sports facilities, entertainment venues, personal care facilities, community centres and places of worship.

You will be eligible if **all** of the following apply:

- You were liable for business rates for the premises as at the date the lockdown was imposed
- Your business was open as usual before the restrictions and was not in administration

- You are planning to reopen after the lockdown period ends.

If your business provides an alternative service during lockdown, such as a restaurant or pub providing takeaway-only meals you will still be eligible as you have been required to close the part of your business that provides its main service.

The level of the grant will depend on the rateable value of your business premises. Find further details and an application form at bury.gov.uk/covid19grants

The council is also drawing up plans to distribute a further £4 million of Additional Restrictions Grants, which can be paid to businesses which are severely affected by the lockdown rather than closed outright.

These could include town centre small businesses, market traders, taxi drivers and early years providers.

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

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

Getting Tested

Testing centres will continue to operate as normal during lockdown. We are working hard to ensure 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):
 - 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

What would the perfect Bury look like in ten years' time for you and your family? What could, and would, you do to help achieve this?

Residents, business and community groups are encouraged to get involved in the Bury 2030 masterplan, which will shape plans for the future of jobs, health, education and the environment for the next decade and beyond.

An eight-week consultation has been launched asking everyone what the priorities for the borough should be. 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>

Bury Council services

Most council services will remain in operation during lockdown, and others have adapted to keep providing the best service possible to Bury's public.

This includes the borough's four libraries which remain open during the national lockdown for readers to borrow and return books.

Customers can go online to order books at www.bury.gov.uk/orderbooks and collect them from branches. Library members may also reserve their choice of book at https://bury.ent.sirsiidynix.net.uk/client/en_GB/default.

A limited number of computer sessions are also available at Radcliffe, Ramsbottom and Prestwich libraries, which must be booked by phone.

Alternatively, join the thousands of residents who are now reading books online through the libraries' Borrowbox service. A huge range of publications are available to download – go to <https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=15336> for details.

As well as online, books and computer sessions can also be ordered or booked by telephone:

- * Bury Library (order & collect only) – 0161 253 5872
- * Prestwich Library – 0161 253 7214
- * Radcliffe Library – 0161 253 7160
- * Ramsbottom Library – 0161 253 5352

Remember that it is compulsory to wear a face covering when visiting libraries.

For latest information on council services we will be keeping our website at bury.gov.uk fully up-to-date

Next update due Thursday November 26, 2020.
Find up-to-date information at bury.gov.uk/coronavirus

ENDS