

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

Welcome to your new look public health briefing

Earlier this week, the country's plan for autumn and winter was unveiled. While much of the focus remains on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and limiting the impact of the disease on all sections of society, there is wider action on other aspects of public health, and in general health and social care.

We will continue to update key Covid-19 information through this bulletin, but also bring in other important public health information; for example, details of the annual flu vaccination programme.

At the time of publication, Covid-19 cases in Bury remain high at 304.7 per 100,000 people. Please keep taking action to drive down Covid-19 transmission and other types of winter illness:

- Wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport
- Meet outside as much as possible and/or let in fresh air
- Minimise the number, proximity and duration of social contacts
- Continue to wash or clean your hands frequently.

Also: please continue to test, to isolate if positive or asked to by NHS Test and Trace, and ensure you and your family members go for your first and second vaccinations at the earliest opportunity. Most people have had their vaccinations already and they are working, please get protected ahead of winter, and, if eligible, take up your booster jab offer.

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

Latest data shows us that while vaccines have reduced the proportion of people who catch Covid-19 needing hospital treatment, the sustained and relatively high level of transmission and increasing rates in the over-60s mean that Covid-19 continues to put pressure on local hospitals.

Sadly we continue to see deaths registered in Bury with Covid-19 on the death certificate, with three such deaths registered in the week up to 7 September.



7-day case figures:

Week ending 11 September: infection rate per 100,000 – 305.2 (582 new cases).

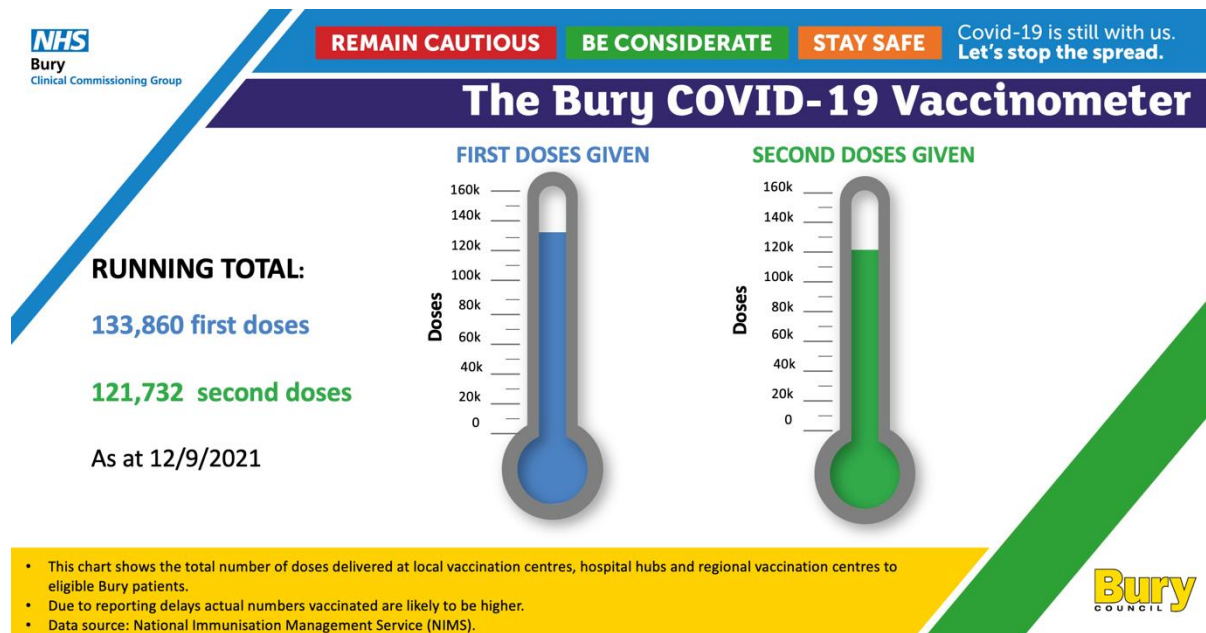
Week ending 4 September: infection rate per 100,000 – 308.3 (588 new cases).

Week ending 28 August: infection rate per 100,000 – 295.5 (563 new cases).

Week ending 21 August: infection rate per 100,000 – 265.3 (506 new cases).

Bury keeps on jabbing!

The total number of Covid jabs in Bury has now reached 255,592, with 133,860 people having now had one dose of the vaccine, and 121,732 having had both jabs.



While we continue to administer first and second doses to over-18s, and first doses to over-16s (with more vaccination venues to open soon), we are also gearing up to deliver booster (third) doses to over-50s and other people vulnerable to Covid-19 this coming autumn and winter.

The JCVI has advised that individuals who were vaccinated in Phase 1 of the programme (priority groups 1 to 9) should be offered a third dose Covid-19 booster vaccination. This should be administered six months after they received their second dose.

This includes:

- Those living in residential care homes for older adults
- All adults aged 50 or over
- Frontline health and social care workers
- All those aged 16 to 49 with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe Covid-19, and adult carers
- Adult household contacts of immuno-suppressed individuals

Regardless of what type of vaccine people received for doses 1 and 2, the third dose offered in Bury will be Pfizer, or – at some regional sites - Moderna.

We are also finalising plans to give single vaccinations to healthy children aged 12 to 15 at their schools.

Children and young people aged 12 and over, who have specific underlying health conditions that put them at serious risk of coronavirus, along with those who are household contacts of people who are immuno-suppressed, have been contacted and invited to have a vaccination.

Regular clinic at Fairfield Hospital

There is a regular vaccination clinic at Fairfield Hospital **Tuesday – Friday every week**, and with an extra clinic next Monday (20th). This offers Pfizer first doses to anyone over 16, and first and second doses to anyone aged over 18.

Opening times are as follows:

Monday 20 September – 8.30am - 6pm (extra clinic for this week only)

Tuesday 21 September - 8.30am - 6pm

Wednesday 22 September - 8.30am - 6pm

Thursday 23 September – 10.30am – 7pm

Friday 24 September – 10.30am – 7pm

Address:

Fairfield General Hospital (Education Centre), Rochdale Old Road, Bury, BL9 7TD.

There is limited free vaccination hub parking available opposite the Education Centre entrance.

If you are aged 18+ and would prefer to book for this clinic you can do so through the national booking service: alternatively, call 0161 778 2104.

Access the [NHS National Booking Service](#) or call 119.

Remember – to get full protection against the virus, you must return for your second jab. NB: those aged 16 and 17 will be offered a single vaccination only, in line with national guidance.

To offer the best safeguard against infection, second doses are offered at 8+ weeks after the first dose. Patients may be offered their second vaccination earlier but only to avoid wastage or because they have a specific medical condition.

Second doses will not be brought forward for the purposes of foreign travel.

Find out more about vaccinations in Bury at bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-vaccine

Get tested, stop the spread!

Testing for coronavirus, even if you don't have symptoms, remains one of our best defences against the spread of the disease.

In Bury we have multiple options available for people to access both LFT (Lateral Flow Tests) - for people without symptoms - and PCR tests (for people with symptoms, or those asked to get tested) when they need them.

Rapid LFT tests

An estimated 1 in 3 people who have the virus don't know that they do, so they could unknowingly be passing it on to their loved ones or work colleagues.

Regular rapid testing, twice a week, helps to pick up cases that might otherwise not have been discovered. With this knowledge we can break the chain of transmission, helping us to protect people around us and safely get back to doing the things we enjoy and a more normal way of life.

The rapid LFT test can be taken at home, it takes approximately five minutes to complete and the result is ready in 30 minutes.

LFT home testing kits are available for collection from a number of locations including many local pharmacies and can be delivered to your home if ordered on the gov.uk website.

Full details of how to access home testing kits can be found [on the council's website](#).

If you have a positive result after taking an LFT test

Anyone who gets a positive test result should self-isolate and will be required to take a follow-up PCR test within two days to confirm the result, even if they don't have symptoms. This is also important to help track any variants of concern.

Even if you have a negative result, it's still vital to continue to follow the guidance around hands, face, space and air to avoid catching coronavirus.

PCR testing for people with Covid-19 symptoms

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 to 5 days of symptoms.

A range of PCR testing options is available right across the borough:

- No appointment needed at Bury's walk-through testing centre, open 10am-3pm, Monday-Friday (excluding bank holidays) at Chesham Fold, 95 Chesham Fold Road, Bury BL9 6JZ.
- By appointment 8am-8pm, with some locations open seven days a week, at Department for Health & Social Care testing centres located at:
 - The former Radcliffe Pool car park, Blackburn Street, Radcliffe
 - Whitefield Library, Pinfold Lane, Whitefield
 - Longfield Centre car park (via Rectory Lane), Prestwich
 - Great Eaves Road test site, Great Eaves Road, Ramsbottom
- By appointment at The Mosses Centre, Cecil Street, Bury

Access the [latest information](#) about testing, how to book and availability or call 0161 253 5515.

Self-isolate to keep Covid-19 at bay

People who have had both jabs, or are aged under 18, are no longer legally required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case. Instead, they are advised to get a free PCR test as soon as possible.

It is important that while waiting for your test result you return home and stay there. And if you do test positive, you should stay at home for a full 10 days. You shouldn't leave home for any reason during this time.

By isolating in a timely and correct way you will be helping to stop the spread of Covid-19.

Bury's Community Hubs are still 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) or text 07860 022876 (messages responded to by the next working day).

More information is [on the community hubs page of our website](#).

Helping people through the toughest 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 on 0161 464 3679. [Find out more](#) about other mental wellbeing support.

Next update due Friday 24 September, 2021.

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