

## Public health briefing for the borough of Bury – 7 January 2022

### Omicron now dominant strain as Covid-19 cases rise further still

Cases of Covid-19 have continued to rise at a startling rate in Bury, reflecting the added transmissibility of the Omicron variant and more social mixing over the festive period.

As anticipated, new cases of Covid-19 increased sharply over Christmas and New Year. The latest data shows that the current rate is over 2,000 per 100,000 and still rising

We are expecting more increases in case numbers in the coming days following the return of schools. Omicron now makes up almost all of Bury's cases. Case numbers are now highest among working-age adults, but – more concerningly – cases have increased quickly in older people and are at the highest level seen so far in the pandemic.

The Booster vaccines are effective in preventing severe illness. However the number of people in local hospitals with Covid-19 has increased due to sheer numbers of people with Covid-19, and this, combined with high levels of staff absence due to Covid-19, means health and care and other services are under immense pressure.

#### 7-day case figures:

Week ending 01 January: infection rate per 100,000 – 1,117.9 (2,135 new cases\*).

Week ending 25 December: infection rate per 100,000 – 1,498.0 (2,861 new cases).

Week ending 18 December: infection rate per 100,000 – 966.0 (1,845 new cases).

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

*\*Figure lower than previous week likely reflects differing testing and reporting arrangements over the Christmas period.*



## Let's stay safe – preventing the spread of Covid-19

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

Wearing face coverings is 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 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, follow guidance if you do test positive or are a close contact of someone positive, and make sure that (when eligible) you and your family members get your vaccinations. Most people have had their vaccinations already and the jabs are working!

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

## Vaccine programme spearheads fight back

While Covid-19 cases do continue to rise, we are seeing the effects of the vaccination programme keeping infections and serious illness at bay. The vaccine remains our greatest weapon against the virus.

In Bury we have delivered 95,962 booster vaccinations with a huge effort over the festive period, and there are enough available slots in January to make sure every eligible person can get theirs by the end of the month

Since we started vaccinating just over a year ago, 145,148 first vaccinations and 133,364 second have been given to Bury residents. These vitally important first and second jabs are available to those who still need them.

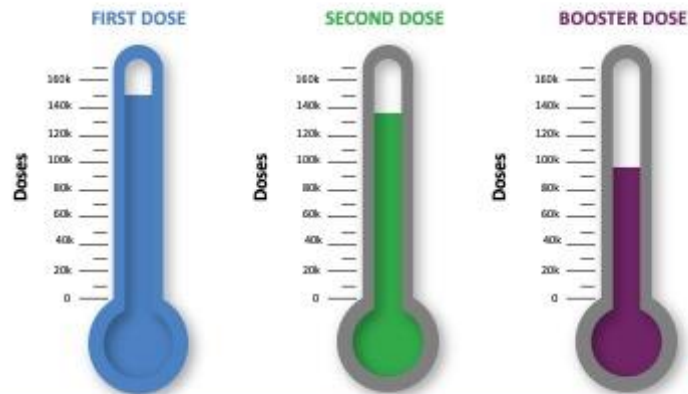
## THE BURY COVID-19 VACCINOMETER

### RUNNING TOTAL:

145,148 first doses  
133,364 second doses  
95,962 booster doses

As of 6/1/2022

This chart shows the total number of doses delivered at local vaccination centres, hospital hubs and regional vaccination centres to eligible Bury patients.  
Due to reporting delays, actual numbers vaccinated are likely to be higher.  
Data source: National Immunisation Management Service (NIMS).



NHS

Bury  
Local Council

Bury  
Council

Let's  
Do It...

## 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 people aged 16 and over, first and second vaccinations are available at any walk-in clinic or bookable clinic in Bury. For people aged 18 and over second doses can be given at 8+ weeks since the first dose, and for 16 and 17-year-olds 12+ weeks since the first dose.

### 12 to 15-year-old vaccination programme

Special appointment-only clinics for 12-15-year-olds are on this Saturday and Sunday (January 8 and 9) at **Ramsbottom Civic Hall**

Sessions on both days run from 1.30pm - 5.30pm and you can book an appointment online [here](#) (Second dose at 12+ weeks after the first)

Alternative clinics can be found via the [National Booking Service](#) or call 119.

### Flu vaccinations

Free flu vaccinations are available for eligible patients at all of Bury's vaccination centres either pre-booked or walk-in. Flu vaccinations are also available at many pharmacies in Bury.

### 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.

You can book in advance for these clinics at [covid.nhsbookings.com/gmpcn](https://covid.nhsbookings.com/gmpcn) to avoid waiting in a queue and be guaranteed you will be jabbed.

Vaccinations are also available at seven pharmacy sites in the borough of Bury:

- Asda Pharmacy, Spring Street, Bury
- Strachan's Chemist, Walmersley Road, Bury
- Cohens Chemist, St Gabriel's Medical Centre Pharmacy, Prestwich
- Asda Pharmacy, Radcliffe
- Well Pharmacy, Church St West, Radcliffe
- Barash Pharmacy, Bury New Road, Whitefield
- Well Pharmacy, Elms Square Precinct, Whitefield

There is also a regular vaccination clinic at Fairfield Hospital that members of the public can attend, and the Manchester Mass Vaccination Centre at the Etihad Campus running 8am-8pm 7 days a week offers an alternative for people who can travel.

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

### Walk-in vaccination centres

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, so dress for comfort.

Check latest clinics, and other details of Bury's vaccination programme, at [bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-vaccine](https://bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-vaccine)

## Self-isolation advice – recent changes

The self-isolation advice for people with coronavirus has recently changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after seven days, following two negative LFT tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFT test should not be taken before the sixth day.

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

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 live in the same household as someone with Covid-19 you are at a significantly higher risk of becoming infected yourself. Therefore:

- If you are aged 18 years 6 months or over and you are not fully vaccinated, and you live in the same household as someone with Covid-19, you are legally required to stay at home and self-isolate
- If you are fully-vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months, and you live in the same household as someone with Covid-19, you are not legally required to self-isolate. However, you are strongly advised to take an LFT test every day for seven days, and to self-isolate if any of these test results are positive

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

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](#).

## Keep testing to stop the spread

Need a LFT test to go to work outside your home or to safely get out and about? Or do you need a PCR because you have Covid symptoms?

You can get the test you need in Bury.

### LFT (Lateral Flow Testing)

There are several ways to get LFT kits in Bury:

- 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 whether positive or negative. You can do this online or by phoning 119.

Until 11 January, 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.

From 11 January, people who receive positive lateral flow results for Covid-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure while Covid-19 rates remain high across the UK. While levels of Covid-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFT results can be confident that they have Covid-19.

### 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](#).
- [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](#)

The next issue of this briefing will be on 14 January 2022.

For up-to-date information about Covid-19 visit [bury.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://bury.gov.uk/coronavirus)