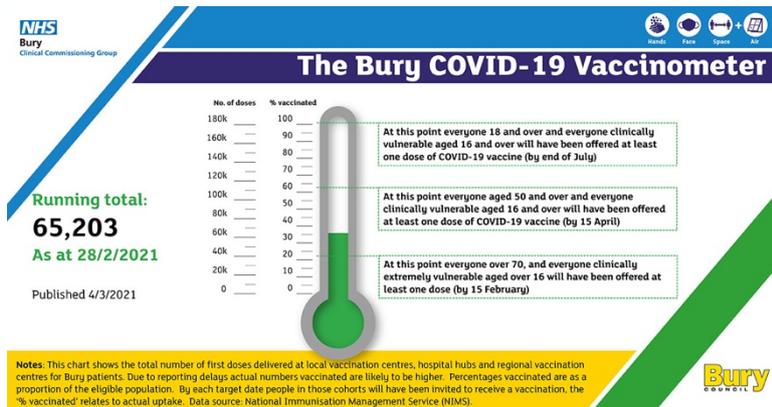


Latest Covid-19 advice for the borough of Bury – 5 March, 2021

Bury vaccinations now top 65k

A total of 65,203 people registered with a Bury GP have now been vaccinated against coronavirus.



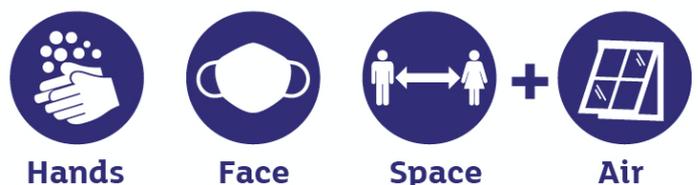
The updated figure means that nearly 36% of the eligible population (182,100) have been given at least one of the two jabs necessary to protect against the potentially fatal illness.

A growing number of people are now receiving their second dose of vaccination - currently in Bury 683 people aged under 65 and 1,482 people aged over 65 have had their second jab.

Bury's vaccinations are being carried out by medical staff at four centres run by the Primary Care Network: the Elizabethan Suite in Bury, Bealey's in Radcliffe, Ramsbottom Civic Hall, and Prestwich Walk-in Centre.

Bury's vaccination figures now also include local residents who are vaccinated at hospital and mass vaccination centres such as the Etihad.

Vaccination targets:



- By 15 Feb: everyone aged 70+ and clinically extremely vulnerable people over 16 = 39,400 people. *Completed.*
- By 15 April: everyone aged 50+ and clinically vulnerable people over 16 = a further 72,700 people.
- By end July: everyone 18+ and clinically vulnerable people aged 16 and 17 = the remaining 70,000 people.

Frontline health and social care staff are also being vaccinated as priority groups.

Remember:

- Vaccinations are given to people in the priority order set by the Government
- Vaccination is by invitation only and you will be contacted when it is your turn. Depending on the priority group you are in, you may be contacted by your GP practice (by letter, phone or text message which will include a link to book an appointment) or you may receive a letter from the NHS.
- The second dose of the vaccine is given around 12 weeks after the first dose, and you will be contacted to book an appointment when the time is right. If you haven't been contacted by week 11, please contact your GP practice.
- You must still follow the Covid-safe rules even if you have been vaccinated – it takes several weeks for the vaccine to work, and you may still be able to catch the virus and pass it on.

Find out about the coronavirus vaccination in Bury here: www.bury.govb.uk/coronavirus-vaccine

Case rates in Bury drop sharply – but still remain very high

There are early signs that the rate of new cases in Bury has started to fall after several weeks of no decreases. The weekly rate of new cases of COVID-19 for the week up to Saturday 27 February was 152.4 per 100,000, a fall of about 35% compared to the week before. However, despite these falls Bury still had the 29th highest rate of new cases in England, and the 4th highest of the 23 upper tier local authorities in the North West. The number of people in local hospitals with COVID-19 has remained steady. The number of deaths has fallen to around one per day on average.

LFT (Lateral Flow Antigen Testing) rapid tests for asymptomatic people are now being added to the weekly case total.

Week ending 27 February: infection rate (including LFT) 152.4 (291 new cases)

Week ending 20 February: infection rate (including LFT) 234.6 (448 new cases)

Week ending 13 February: infection rate (including LFT) 202.1 (386 new cases)

Week ending 6 February: infection rate (including LFT) 202.6 (387 new cases)



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Getting tested in Bury

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 3-5 days of symptoms.

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

No appointment needed at Bury's walk-through testing centre, open 10am-3pm, Monday - Friday:
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:

- The former Radcliffe Pool car park, Blackburn Street, Radcliffe
- Whitefield Library, Pinfold Lane, Whitefield
- The Metro Christian Centre, 13 Parkhills Road, Bury
- Longfield Centre car park (via Rectory Lane), Prestwich
- Great Eaves Road test site, Great Eaves Road, Ramsbottom

Bury's drive-through testing site at Waterfold Business Park is open by appointment only.

For the latest information about testing and availability visit www.bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-testing or call 0161 253 5515.

Supporting our schools for fully reopening

Testing of students at secondary schools in Bury has already begun, in preparation for the return of all children and young people on Monday for face-to-face learning.

Secondary schools are offering a lateral flow (LFT) test to all pupils and, providing this is negative, they will return full-time.

Pupils will be offered a further two tests in school over their first two weeks back before being asked to test themselves at home in future weeks.

Around 600 pupils who are already in school are being tested this week, but the numbers to be tested will increase greatly as all students return.

Bury's NHS and public health teams are providing support to the borough's schools to manage the logistics and procedures required to ensure the testing goes smoothly. In addition, schools can access funding to bring in additional staff to manage the testing.

After the first two weeks home testing kits will be available to families through a click and collect service. The details of how this will work will be shared with schools and families over the coming weeks.



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If students test positive they will have to self-isolate and get a PCR test.

Additional safety measures to be put into place include wearing of face coverings by secondary school and college students in communal areas, and by adults in primary schools, where social distancing cannot be maintained.

Rapid community coronavirus testing

In Bury we are operating a targeted community testing programme which aims to identify people in certain settings or high-risk occupations who do not have coronavirus symptoms but could have the infection and therefore could pass the virus on to others without knowing it.

The LFT test takes approximately 5 minutes at one of our testing facilities. The results are available in around 30 minutes and sent directly by email or SMS to the person's mobile device. There is no need to wait at the testing site for the result.

Targeted community testing is offered to businesses and critical workers who cannot work from home and includes taxi drivers, delivery drivers, 'blue lights' and health and social care staff, staff at schools and early years providers and essential retail and public transport workers, to name but a few.

At the borough's two targeted testing sites (Waterfold Business Park and Mosses Community Centre) there is capacity to undertake around 200 tests per day. Access to targeted community testing is by appointment only at this link: <https://nhsburyccg.simplybook.cc/v2/>

Covid-19 testing support for business

To support critical workers and businesses, the Government recently announced support for organisations with over 50 employees to access a supply of Lateral Flow Test Devices to do rapid Covid-19 tests. The results of these tests are known within 30 minutes.

This programme is open for businesses where some or all of their workers can't work from home, allowing them to develop their own onsite Covid-19 testing service. It's critical that businesses take part in this programme as it will support Bury in identifying outbreaks earlier, reducing the amount of the people who could come in contact with the virus and limit the impact on the wider economy.

If your business is interested in taking part in testing, you can get further information at <https://www.gov.uk/get-workplace-coronavirus-tests> or please don't hesitate to contact buccg.covid19testing@nhs.net. For those businesses where it is not practical to set up a Covid-19 testing service, their workforce can access the test facilities at Waterfold and Mosses using the following link <https://nhsburyccg.simplybook.cc/v2/>



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Helping people through the toughest time

Support in the community

Support for clinically extremely vulnerable residents who have been asked to shield, other vulnerable residents and residents who need to self-isolate continues through the Bury Community Hubs.

The hubs can help with food shopping and collecting prescriptions as well as telephone befriending and support to get online for things like priority supermarket delivery slots.

The Community Hubs are working with partners in mental health, Bury VCFA, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Age UK and Bury Community Support Network, which includes access to foodbanks in Bury. We have a network of individual volunteers in every part of Bury who we can 'buddy' you up with for regular chats, support to get online, help to collect your prescriptions and medication, and they can help with your shopping too.

Call 0161 253 5353 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for information or to talk to us about what support you might need.

Mental health support

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, life has changed for all of us 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 about other mental wellbeing support at www.bury.gov.uk/mentalwellbeing

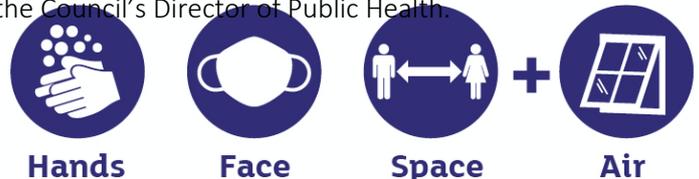


Community Champions is here!

Earlier this week Bury Council launched its Covid-19 Community Champions network, aiming to sign up hundreds of residents from across the borough.

The Covid-19 Champions network will be made up of volunteers from all areas of the borough and will help residents to stay up-to-date with how to protect themselves and others against the virus.

Those who sign-up will receive regular updates on the latest advice and guidance as well as live fortnightly webinars where they can put questions to the Council's Director of Public Health.



The Champions will also be able to share issues and concerns from their local communities as well identify barriers to accessing accurate information. They will be invited to Teams meetings with the Public Health team to discuss issues and ideas.

Councillor David Jones, Cabinet Member for Communities and Emergency Planning, said: “It’s more important than ever that Bury residents stay up-to-date with the latest guidance and advice, which aims to keep us as safe as possible.

“The community champions will help us by reaching out to their communities and making sure they have the information they need and get their questions answered. Ultimately, it will help save lives.”

Lesley Jones, Director of Public Health said: “Throughout the pandemic, our priority has been to protect the most vulnerable.

“It is vital higher-risk groups are able to access the advice and information they need whether it’s about testing, accessing the NHS or the benefits of a lifesaving vaccine.

“I look forward to the Community Champions sharing their insights and concerns and encourage and welcome the two-way dialogue that will help inform local strategy and delivery.”

Cllr Jones appealed for residents from all parts of the borough to get involved, adding: “If you want to get the latest information and can share it with neighbours, networks and the local community through word of mouth, email, social media or however you choose, then we want to hear from you.”

The scheme is part of a wider initiative that will see voluntary and community groups deliver a wide range of measures to protect those most at risk – building trust, communicating accurate health information and ultimately saving lives.

To sign up to be a Covid Champion please visit: www.bury.gov.uk/communitychampions

Grant payments reaching businesses in need

Grant payments from existing pots continue to be made to Bury businesses coping with the financial effects of the coronavirus lockdown.

And following the Chancellor’s budget this week, further grant funding will be available to businesses through a new £5 billion Restart Grant scheme to help the high street. This will provide up to £18,000 per organisation.

Bury Council is currently working through the governance process for the new scheme and it will be launched imminently. Please sign up to the Bury Means Business weekly e-newsletter [here](#) for updates.



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The council's economic development team has worked with local businesses to develop grant support packages aimed at supporting companies of different sizes and types whose survival is crucial to Bury's economy and local jobs, and at those who have not received help so far.

Information on the various grants and other support available is on the Bury Means Business website [here](#) and help and advice is available by emailing Investin@bury.gov.uk

Next update due Friday 12 March, 2021.

Find up-to-date information at bury.gov.uk/coronavirus



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