

## Latest COVID-19 information and advice for the borough of Bury October 15, 2020

### Bury awaits news on 'Tier' classification

As this bulletin is issued, we await news on whether Bury and the rest of Greater Manchester will be placed under 'Tier 3 – Very High Risk' coronavirus restrictions.

Discussions between local leaders - including Bury's Cllr Eamonn O'Brien - and government are continuing. In the event of Greater Manchester being placed in Tier 3, leaders have asked government for a support package that ensures individuals and businesses affected by greater restrictions get what they need.

For now, Bury, along with the rest of Greater Manchester remains in Tier 2. The borough is currently deemed 'high risk', with restrictions in place largely mirroring those placed on the majority of Greater Manchester and other parts of the North West and Yorkshire at the end of July.

Attached is a graphic that explains what the current Tier 2 restrictions are. We plan to provide an update to this bulletin as soon as firm information becomes available.

### Latest data

Rates of new COVID-19 cases continued to increase in Bury in the week up to October 10th. The make-up of new cases was similar to previous weeks, with cases concentrated among working age adults who identified as British. The previously slower increase in cases in people aged 65 and over appears to have accelerated. Cases are still spread across Bury with less-deprived areas slightly over-represented. The number of patients with COVID-19 in local hospitals continues to increase. Sadly we are now again seeing deaths with a cause of COVID-19 on the death certificate.

With 693 new cases recorded in the seven days to October 10th, Bury's infection rate has risen from 283.3 per 100,000 to 362.8 per 100,000 and remains one of the highest rates in the UK.

The four-week summary in Bury:

Week ending 10 October: infection rate 362.8 (693 new cases)

Week ending 3 October: infection rate 283.3 (541 new cases)

Week ending 26 September: infection rate 224.6 (429 new cases)

Week ending 19 September: infection rate 165.5 (316 new cases)

## Getting Tested

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)
- 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. Here is an overview of the guidance aimed at the general population.

### **When do I need to self-isolate?**

You should self-isolate if:

- You have COVID-19 symptoms - a new continuous cough, high temperature, or change in sense of taste or smell
- You test positive for COVID-19
- You live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19

- You arrive in the UK from one of a number of countries which aren't exempt from quarantine rules
- You are contacted by NHS Test and Trace to say you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive

#### *What does self-isolation mean?*

- Self-isolating means staying at home and not leaving it.
- You should not go out for any reason - even to buy food, medicines or other essentials, or for exercise.
- You should order online groceries, or ask friends or family to help out by getting what you need and leaving items outside your front door.

#### *How long must I stay at home?*

- **10 DAYS** – if you have symptoms or have had a positive test
- **14 DAYS** – if someone in your house has symptoms or you are told you are a close contact of someone with a positive test
- **14 DAYS** – if you arrive in the UK from a restricted county.

#### *How are the rules enforced?*

From 28 September, anyone in England who does not self-isolate after a positive test or if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 could be fined up to £10,000.

#### *Local support 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 now open for applications. Aimed at those on low incomes, a £500 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)

Bury's community hubs are available to step in and help people who are in self-isolation and do not have people close to help with food shopping and collecting medical supplies. Call 0161 253 5353 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for information.

## Stopping the spread

Everyone can do their bit to stop the spread of COVID-19 by following rules and guidelines:

- Wearing face coverings in shops, hospitality and most other indoor public places is now compulsory and enforceable by law.
- Stay two metres apart from people you don't live with, as much as possible.
- Avoid physical contact with anyone outside your own household, including shaking hands or hugging.
- Keep your hands as clean as possible, using soap and water where available/or regularly apply hand sanitiser.

*Please also download the NHS* Test and Trace app. It lets users know if someone nearby has tested positive for the virus, and also has a check-in scanner to alert users if a venue they have visited is found to be an outbreak hotspot.

It's available from Google Play (Android devices) or Apple's App Store – just search for 'NHS Covid-19'.

Next update due Thursday October 22, 2020.

**ENDS**