

Latest COVID-19 information and advice for the borough of Bury October 29, 2020

Latest data

Like the rest of Greater Manchester, numbers of new confirmed cases of COVID-19 continued to increase in Bury in the week up to October 24. The rate of new confirmed COVID-19 cases was 545.6 per 100,000 people per week. Numbers of people in hospital with COVID-19 continued to increase, with numbers of people in Fairfield General Hospital with COVID-19 more than doubling compared to the week before. Case numbers continue to be concentrated in working age adults and are evenly split between younger and older working age adults. Numbers of cases of COVID-19 in people aged 65 were steady compared to the previous week. As in previous weeks people diagnosed with COVID-19 mostly identified as British. There has been a slight shift to areas identified as more deprived being overrepresented in the data.

With 1042 new cases recorded in the seven days to October 24, Bury's infection rate has risen from 418.9 per 100,000 to 545.6 per 100,000 and continues to be among the highest rates in the UK.

The four-week summary in Bury:

Week ending October 24 infection rate 545.6 (1042 new cases)
Week ending October 17: infection rate 418.9 (800 new cases)
Week ending October 10: infection rate 374.4 (715 new cases)
Week ending October 3: infection rate 282.7 (540 new cases)

Bury continues in 'Tier 3' – a reminder of current restrictions

Bury, along with the rest of Greater Manchester, was placed in the highest coronavirus risk level in the early hours of last Friday (October 23) due to increasing transmission rates.

New measures have come into place including:

- People must not socialise with anybody they do not live with* in any indoor setting or in any private garden or at most outdoor hospitality venues and ticketed events
- People must not socialise in a group of more than 6 in an outdoor public space such as a park or beach, the countryside, a public garden or a sports venue
- Pubs and bars must close; they can only remain open where they operate as if they were a restaurant, which means serving substantial meals, like a main lunchtime or evening meal, and they may only serve alcohol as part of such a meal
- Adult gaming centres, bingo halls, casinos, bookmakers, betting shops and children's soft play centres must also close.
- People should try to avoid travelling outside the very high alert level area you are in or entering a very high alert level area, other than for things like work, education or youth services, to meet caring responsibilities or if you are travelling through as part of a longer journey
- People should avoid staying overnight in another part of the UK if you are resident in a very high alert level area, or avoid staying overnight in a very high alert level area if you are resident elsewhere.

*Unless they have formed a support bubble.

Further details about the restrictions in place for Bury are available from the government website at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-very-high>.

Measures will only be in place as long as necessary, with case rates and epidemiology reviewed regularly. The restrictions in Greater Manchester will be reviewed by at least November 11.

Stopping the Spread

There are 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.

Isolation

Self-isolating in an appropriate and timely way is one of the best lines of defence we have against the spread of coronavirus. To stop the spread, people need to self-isolate as soon as they develop symptoms and get tested as quickly as possible.

We have developed a handy graphic sheet – attached – that explains how isolation works for people to use and distribute far and wide to their networks.

We have also produced social media graphics to remind people that if they are awaiting results of a coronavirus test, they must self-isolate until they receive the result, and if the test is positive that they must self-isolate for ten days after their first symptoms.

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

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.

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)
 - And from tomorrow (Friday October 30), 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.

Next update due Thursday November 5, 2020.

ENDS