

Latest Covid-19 advice for the borough of Bury – 28 May, 2021

Continued rise in cases for borough

The number of cases of Covid-19 in Bury increased by 71% during the week ending 22 May, with the weekly rate at 65.5 cases per 100,000. Case rates continue to rise rapidly.

This may be caused by spread of the B.1.617.2 variant (first reported in India) which has continued to grow as a proportion of cases in Bury and is known to spread more easily than previous variants. The increase in cases is also likely to be related to relaxation of national restrictions.

We continue to see small numbers of deaths registered in Bury with Covid-19 mentioned on the death certificate.

- Week ending 22 May: infection rate per 100,000 65.5 (125 new cases).
- Week ending 15 May: infection rate per 100,000 38.2 (73 new cases).
- Week ending 8 May: infection rate per 100,000 22.5 (43 new cases).
- Week ending 1 May: infection rate per 100,000 21.5 (41 new cases).

There is no evidence yet that B.1.617.2 variant causes more severe disease, but there are signs that one dose of vaccine may offer slightly less protection against it. So it's really important that we keep following the rules to protect ourselves and our families, and get a second vaccine dose as soon as you are offered one.

We ask that you:

- Continue to meet friends and family outside and keep the number of different people you meet with small as far as possible
- Stick to the really important basics of hands, face, space + keep air circulating when indoors
- Get tested and isolate immediately if you need to
- Take up your first and second vaccinations when invited.



Hands



Face



Space



Air

Test

Bury has plenty of Covid-19 test options for people with and without symptoms – see below, and [find out more here](#). When using a rapid test it's really important to register the result within 24 hours regardless of whether it is positive or negative. You can do this at [online](#) or by calling 119.

Isolate

If you test positive for coronavirus please stay at home and do not go out under any circumstances. There is support available from our Community Hubs (further details below).

Vaccinate

Take the vaccine when offered, and make sure you get your second dose when it's time, [find out more](#).

Together we can stop coronavirus.
Let's do it for each other. Let's do it for Bury.

Bury first vaccines now top 108k

A total of 108,376 people registered with a Bury GP have now had their first dose of the coronavirus vaccine - and 71,875 residents have now received their second jab.

And as the borough continues its fightback against new and more infectious variants of the virus, the vaccination programme is set to accelerate further in coming weeks to deliver more first doses, and second doses more quickly.

Plans for additional and extended clinics are underway, with the first expected to be held next weekend. Details are to be announced.

Vaccinations have now moved beyond the original target of people in Tiers 1-9 (the over-50s and clinically vulnerable).

If you are aged 30 and over you can visit the [NHS National Booking Service](#) or call 119 to book your first dose appointment, or book an appointment locally at: <https://covid.nhsbookings.com/gmpcn>

Remember:

- Vaccinations are given to people in the priority order set by the Government
- For people aged over 50 and those who are clinically vulnerable, the second dose of the vaccine is given 8 weeks after the first dose. For everyone else it will be given 11 weeks after the first dose. You will be contacted by letter, phone or text message to book an appointment when the time is right. If you haven't been contacted by the week before the date your second dose is due, 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 more](#) about the vaccination programme in Bury.



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Keep up to date with all of the latest information about the Covid-19 vaccination, along with the benefits and risks, in this [useful information guide](#).

It's best to test!

Our Best to Test campaign rolls on, and can be seen prominently across the borough on outdoor media and online. It encourages everyone who does not have coronavirus symptoms to test twice weekly to protect those around us - our loved ones and work colleagues - and to help us get back on our feet.

A handy testing information pack (attached to the covering email) explains the different types of testing - for when you have symptoms and when you don't - and how to access testing locally or test yourself at home with a self-test kit.

A short animated video is currently running on social media: you can watch it [here](#) and share it with your family and friends.

It's best to test, twice weekly.

Rapid testing for everyone

In Bury we are supporting the Government's request to try and stop case numbers rising further, that everyone without symptoms gets regularly tested for coronavirus.

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 the things we enjoy and a more normal way of life.

The rapid test, known as a lateral flow test, takes approximately five minutes to complete and the result is available in around an hour if you are having an assisted test, or 30 minutes if you are taking the test yourself at home.

There are two main ways you can arrange a rapid test:

1. Assisted testing at a test centre

You can book an assisted rapid test at one of our testing centres. Our team will explain what to do and will process your result which will be sent to you by email or text message in around an hour.

You can book an assisted rapid test online, to be carried out at either:

- Waterfold Business Park, Bury BL9 7BR.
- The Mosses Centre, Cecil Street, Bury BL9 0SB.



Hands



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2. Home testing with a self-test kit

You can also take the test yourself at home by following the instructions included with the self-test kit. You can collect a supply of self-test kits from a local testing site at certain times, from participating community pharmacies, or order kits to be sent to your home.

Registering your result

If you self-test at home you will need to register your result online or by phoning 119 within 24 hours of taking your test.

If you have a positive result

Anyone who has 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.

Find out everything you need to know, book a test or request/arrange to pick up testing kits to use at home on our [testing information page](#).

If you have Covid-19 symptoms, here's how to get tested

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 testing options are 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 - 1.30pm, 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
 - 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 available by appointment only.

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



Hands



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It's vital to self-isolate

If you're told to self-isolate, it's important to do so immediately and for the full 10 days. You shouldn't leave home for any reason during this time (including the period of awaiting a Covid-19 test result).

Keeping yourself away from other people when you could be infectious is the most effective way of stopping coronavirus from spreading.

You're not alone if you find doing this hard. Planning ahead, even before you have been told to self-isolate, can make things easier; for example, think about how you would get necessities like food and medication in the event of the household having to self-isolate.

Bury's Community Hubs are supporting households who are isolating and do not have friends or family nearby who can help them. Those who have tested positive for coronavirus will be contacted by the hubs on Day 1 and Day 6 to arrange help if needed.

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

Helping people through the toughest times

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 more](#) about other mental wellbeing support.

Business support

Local businesses are reminded that they may be eligible for a Restart grant to help them get going post-Covid.

They are aimed at firms such as shops, pubs and gyms who have reopened their doors as lockdown restrictions have been lifted.

The council has already paid out 1,057 Restart grants worth £7.7 million, and the deadline for applications is 30 June.

There are two types of grant available:

- **Restart grants for non-essential retail businesses.** Depending on your business's rateable value, grant payments will be either £2,667, £4,000 or £6,000.
- **Restart grants for hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses.** Again, depending on rateable value, grants will be £8,000, £12,000 or £18,000.



Hands



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To see if you are eligible, and to apply for a grant, go to www.bury.gov.uk/restartgrant



Could you help us get important Covid-19 information out to people in Bury?

The Bury Community Champions scheme was created so we could get important news about Covid-19 developments out to people quickly, and in the best format for them.

We're looking to recruit more Champions to join the dozens of people across the borough who have already signed up to the scheme, and help our public health team to co-produce and send out information like bulletins, leaflets, videos and assets for social media, some of which could be adapted for different needs e.g. in different languages.

As the latest developments with new variants have shown, getting the word out to our communities so that people can take action for themselves and their families is more important than ever.

[Find out more](#) about becoming a Community Champion.

Next update due Friday June 4, 2021.

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



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