

Public health briefing for the borough of Bury – 8 October, 2021

Overall cases steady – but stay high among young people

The number of Covid-19 cases among school-aged children has remained high this week and Bury Council continues to manage a number of larger clusters and outbreaks in schools, working within the Government's Contingency Framework for Schools and Early Years settings.

Case numbers have also increased among people aged 35 to 50, which is likely to be parents catching the virus from their children. The number of cases among people aged over 60 also increased.

The number of people in hospital with Covid-19 fell, as did the number of deaths, although we continue to have hospital admissions and deaths caused by Covid-19.

Remember:

- Please keep wearing face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport
- Meet outside as much as possible, and keep indoor spaces ventilated
- Minimise the number, proximity and duration of social contacts
- Continue to wash or clean your hands frequently.

Also: please continue to test, to isolate if positive or if asked to by NHS Test and Trace, and ensure that you and your family members go for your first and second vaccinations at the earliest opportunity. Most people have had their vaccinations already and the jabs are working: but please get protected ahead of winter and, if eligible, take up your booster jab offer when invited.

It all helps, and we thank everyone in Bury for remaining cautious, being considerate and – above all – staying safe.

7-day case figures:

Week ending 2 October: infection rate per 100,000 – 285.3 (544 new cases).

Week ending 25 September: infection rate per 100,000 – 257.5 (491 new cases).

Week ending 18 September: infection rate per 100,000 – 233.5 (446 new cases).

Week ending 11 September: infection rate per 100,000 – 305.2 (582 new cases).



Why wait, vaccinate!

Bury's vaccination programme continues at pace. Booster doses for double jabbed people are now being administered in the borough's clinics, first and second doses are also still being offered, and the vaccination programme for 12 to 15-year-olds in schools is well under way.

Bury has four GP-led clinics offering Covid-19 vaccinations to over-16s. There's a new Radcliffe clinic, based in Radcliffe United Reformed Church in Blackburn Street, plus the established clinics at the Elizabethan Suite in Bury, Prestwich Walk-in Centre and Ramsbottom Civic Hall.

If you're still due a first or second dose of Covid-19 vaccine you can book an appointment at one of the local centres [here](#) or just walk in at one of several special 'no appointment needed' sessions: see details below.

It is also possible to book an appointment at alternative locations including certain pharmacies and the Etihad Tennis Centre (open seven days a week) using the national booking system [here](#), or by dialling 119.

Please note that those aged 16 and 17 will be offered a single vaccine in line with current guidance.

Covid boosters will be offered to residents who had their second dose of the vaccine at least six months ago. People will be invited in priority order, like the earlier phases of the vaccination programme, meaning that the most vulnerable will receive theirs first.

Eligible people will also be offered their annual flu vaccination at the same time as their Covid-19 booster.

The following clinics will be running as walk-ins for first and second vaccinations in the coming days:

Saturday 9 October

Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AJ. 8.30am to 6pm, Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Sunday 10 October

Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AJ. 8.30am to 6pm. Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Elizabethan Suite, Knowsley Street, Bury, BL9 0SW. 8.30am to 5.30pm. Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Tuesday 12 October

Prestwich Walk-in Centre, Fairfax Road, Prestwich, M25 1BT. 1pm to 5pm. Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Elizabethan Suite, Knowsley Street, Bury, BL9 0SW. 8.30am to 5.30pm. Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Wednesday 13 October

Prestwich Walk-in Centre, Fairfax Road, Prestwich, M25 1BT. 8.45am to 12.30pm. Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Radcliffe United Reformed Church, Blackburn Street, Radcliffe M26 3WQ. 9.30am – 3pm. Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Thursday 14 October

Radcliffe United Reformed Church, Blackburn Street, Radcliffe M26 3WQ. 9.30am – 3pm. Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Elizabethan Suite, Knowsley Street, Bury, BL9 0SW. 8.30am to 5.30pm. Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Friday 15 October

Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AJ. 8.30am to 6pm. Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Saturday 16 October

Elizabethan Suite, Knowsley Street, Bury, BL9 0SW. 8.30am to 5.30pm. Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AJ., 8.30am to 6pm. Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Sunday 17 October

Prestwich Walk-in Centre, Fairfax Road, Prestwich, M25 1BT. 9am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.45pm. Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AJ. 8.30am to 12.30pm. Pfizer first dose and second dose.

Get tested, stop the spread!

Testing for coronavirus, even if you don't have symptoms, remains one of our best defences against the spread of the disease.

In Bury we have multiple options available for people to access both LFT (Lateral Flow Tests) - for people without symptoms - and PCR tests (for people with symptoms, or those asked to get tested) when they need them.

Rapid LFT tests

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

The rapid LFT test can be taken at home, it takes approximately five minutes to complete and the result is ready in 30 minutes.

LFT home testing kits are available for collection from a number of locations including many local pharmacies and can be delivered to your home if ordered on the gov.uk website.

Full details of how to access home testing kits can be found [on the council's website](#).

If you have a positive result after taking an LFT test

Anyone who gets 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.

PCR testing for people with Covid-19 symptoms

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 PCR testing options is 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-8pm, 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
 - Longfield Centre car park (via Rectory Lane), Prestwich
 - Great Eaves Road test site, Great Eaves Road, Ramsbottom
- By appointment at The Mosses Centre, Cecil Street, Bury

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

Self-isolate to keep Covid-19 at bay

People who have had both jabs, or are aged under 18, are no longer legally required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case. Instead, they are advised to get a free PCR test as soon as possible.

It is important that if you have any symptoms of Covid-19 you should stay at home and await your result. And if you do test positive, you should stay at home for a full 10 days, not leaving home for any reason during this time.

By isolating in a timely and correct way you will be helping to stop the spread of Covid-19.

Bury's Community Hubs are still 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) or text 07860 022876 (messages responded to by the next working day).

More information is [on the community hubs page of our website](#).

Helping people through the toughest 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 on 0161 464 3679. [Find out more](#) about other mental wellbeing support.

Next update due Friday 15 October, 2021.

For up-to-date information about Covid-19 see bury.gov.uk/coronavirus