

Latest COVID-19 information and advice for the borough of Bury November 12, 2020

Latest restrictions

Bury, with the rest of England, remains in lockdown until December 2. Coronavirus spreads easily, and from person-to-person – the single most important action we can all take to fight back against the disease is to stay home, protect the NHS and save lives.

Remember:

- Stay at home, except for specific purposes
- Avoid meeting people you do not live with except for specific purposes
- Certain businesses and venues must close.

Find out more at [gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november)

Latest data

The number of new cases of Covid-19 in Bury has flattened in the week up to November 8, with a rate of 550.81 new cases per 100,000 people per week. This is a very slight decrease on the previous week.

However, numbers of patients in local hospitals with COVID-19 continued to increase, and deaths from COVID-19 also continued to increase in line with earlier hospital admissions.

The epidemiological picture remains largely unchanged this week, although we have seen a shift to neighbourhoods with greater levels of deprivation being slightly overrepresented in numbers of new cases.

The four-week summary in Bury:

Week ending November 8*: infection rate 550.81 (1052 new cases)

Week ending October 31: infection rate 561.8 (1073 new cases)

Week ending October 24: infection rate 549.8 (1050 new cases)

Week ending October 17: infection rate 418.9 (800 new cases)

*Data unavailable for w/e November 7.

While many of us won't be going far during lockdown, when we do go out it's really important to keep on with 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.

Let's follow the rules and get the rates down.

Support is at hand

Bury has begun to deploy a set of support options available to those most affected by the lockdown.

Support for the clinically extremely vulnerable

Prominent among those with the greatest need are the group who are clinically extremely vulnerable and have been advised to not go out to shops or pharmacies. Through its Community Hubs network, Bury Council is reaching out to this group to ensure they have the support they need over the next few weeks. All affected households have this week received a letter offering help.

Help can be given with food shopping and collecting prescriptions as well as telephone befriending support and support to get online for things like supermarket deliveries.

Call 0161 253 5353 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for information or if you need a hand.

Mental health support

Coronavirus means that life has changed for all of us for a while, 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 for people of all ages that are experiencing difficulties with their mental wellbeing.

Run by the voluntary sector, you can access advice, guidance and signposting to local services by calling the Getting Help Line on: 0161 464 3679, Monday to Saturday, 8am to 8pm. Find out more about other mental wellbeing support at: www.bury.gov.uk/mentalwellbeing

Find out more at bury.gov.uk/coronavirus

Business support

Has your business had to temporarily close due to lockdown? Applications for Local Restrictions Support Grants are now open.

Local Restrictions Support Grants provide financial help to businesses required to close during local and national lockdowns. These include businesses which have been required to close from:

- March 23, 2020 due to national restrictions, such as nightclubs. Grant payments are available for these businesses from November 1 and cannot be backdated.
- October 23 until November 4, 2020 due to Bury being placed in Tier 3. These include pubs, bars, casinos, adult gaming establishments, betting shops and soft play centres.
- November 5 until December 2, 2020 due to national lockdown restrictions. These include the business affected by the Tier 3 restrictions as well as all non-essential retail, hospitality venues, accommodation, leisure and sports facilities, entertainment venues, personal care facilities, community centres and places of worship.

You will be eligible if **all** of the following apply:

- You were liable for business rates for the premises as at the date the lockdown was imposed
- Your business was open as usual before the restrictions and was not in administration
- You are planning to reopen after the lockdown period ends.

If your business provides an alternative service during lockdown, such as a restaurant or pub providing takeaway-only meals you will still be eligible as you have been required to close the part of your business that provides its main service.

The level of the grant will depend on the rateable value of your business premises. Find further details and an application form at bury.gov.uk/covid19grants

Financial support for individuals, including 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

For those experiencing financial difficulty, the government's website offers help and advice. Find out more here: gov.uk/coronavirus/worker-support

Getting Tested

Testing centres will continue to operate as normal during lockdown. 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)
 - 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.

Isolation

Self-isolating in an appropriate and timely way is one of the best lines of defence we have against the spread of coronavirus.

If you're asked to self-isolate, please comply. If you have any of the symptoms of coronavirus please isolate immediately and get tested. And once you have had a coronavirus test, please go home and stay there until you have your result and then act accordingly.

Bury Community Hubs can help with shopping or prescription needs for those self isolating. Call 0161 253 5353 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for information.

Sign up for Virus Watch

University College London and the NHS have teamed up for a project called 'Virus Watch'. While current research does a very good job of reporting infection rates and identifying outbreaks. Virus Watch aims to identify *how* the virus spreads, and, *how* to stop it.

Researchers are seeking thousands of volunteers across England and Wales. They'll receive an antibody test to see if they have had COVID-19, and if they might have resistance against the disease.

The more that's understood about the virus the better equipped we will be to stop its spread and save lives.

Find out more about the study at: ucl-virus-watch.net

Bury Council services

Most council services will remain in operation during lockdown. This is with the notable exception of leisure services, libraries, the tourist information centre and Bury Art Museum. For latest information we will be keeping our website at bury.gov.uk fully up-to-date

Next update due Thursday November 19, 2020.

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

ENDS