

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

If you are aged 40 and over you can visit the [NHS National Booking Service](#) or call 119 to book your first dose appointment. The NHS is working hard to provide appointments for everyone at a convenient time and place. If you are unable to book an appointment that works for you, please keep checking the national booking service – more appointments will become available over the next few weeks. If you would prefer to receive your vaccination at a local centre, your GP practice will be in touch as soon as first dose supplies become more available locally.

Remember:

- Vaccinations are given to people in the priority order set by the Government.
- The second dose of the vaccine is given 11 weeks after the first dose, and residents 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 week 10 after your first dose, 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.

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](#).

Continued fall in Bury Covid-19 cases

The number of new cases of Covid-19 continued to fall in Bury in the week up to 24th April, when the weekly rate of new cases was 25.7 per 100,000 people. This was the 9th highest rate in Greater Manchester (out of 10 areas) and 10th highest in the North West (out of 23 areas). Numbers of new cases remain low across all age groups, particularly people aged over 60. Bury has had its first week when no deaths were registered with Covid-19 on the death certificate in 2021.

- Week ending 24 April: infection rate per 100,000 (including LFT) 25.7 (49 new cases).
- Week ending 17 April: infection rate per 100,000 (including LFT) 27.8 (53 new cases).
- Week ending 10 April: infection rate per 100,000 (including LFT) 31.4 (60 new cases).
- Week ending 3 April: infection rate per 100,000 (including LFT) 51.8 (99 new cases).

Let's Do It for Each Other, Let's Do It for Bury!

Our new campaign Let's Do It for Each Other, Let's Do It for Bury rolls on as we ask people to be vigilant against the continuing threat of Covid-19.

With large parts of our town centres now opened up and more people out and about, we're reminding our residents to keep sticking to the rules and following the important basics of hands, face, space and keeping air circulating. Let's keep those case rates down.



Hands



Face



Space



Air

A partnership pack explaining how you can help spread the word is attached to this email and comms assets are available [here](#). If you cannot access this for any reason, please contact communicationsteam@bury.gov.uk and request the assets; we will ensure you receive them by another means.

Rapid testing for everyone

In Bury we are supporting the Government's ask that everyone without symptoms gets regularly tested for coronavirus.

An estimated 1 in 3 people have the virus but don't know it, and so they could unknowingly pass 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, at:

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

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 that has a positive 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,



Hands



Face



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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.

Protecting your family from Covid-19

Want to know how to protect yourself and your family from Covid-19 and other infectious diseases?

Germ Defence is a handy online resource made in conjunction with Public Health England that tells you everything you need to know - and those who read it are less likely to catch viruses.

Check it out at germdefence.org

Helping people through the toughest times

Support in the community

Shielding for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable has been paused and Bury's Community Hubs are stepping up to support them to spend more time outside the home.

As well as helping to organise ongoing arrangements for food shopping, hub staff and volunteers are accompanying people who haven't been out for some time for shopping and getting some exercise.



Hands



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Our hubs are also 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 – this could be for things like food, collection of prescriptions or any other support.

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

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 grant update

Many businesses in Bury have successfully bid for grants from a number of new funds. These include:

Safe reopening fund

To support businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector, or those in the supply chain to those sectors, who will soon be able to reopen premises and that are not eligible for a Restart grant.

Recovery expertise

With the pandemic changing the ways we do business and requiring more businesses to adapt and evolve rapidly, this fund will support businesses in making those changes, enabling them to survive and thrive, through assistance for things like marketing and digital skills.

Town and district centre independent retail support fund

To support those retail businesses that have remained open during periods of restriction.

Tourism and culture fund

To support those businesses that promote our borough and culture and bring local, national and international visitors to spend in our economy.

Community facilities, social enterprises and charitable organisations funding

To support those organisations that until now have not been able to access funding through other government Covid-19 support.

Where to apply

The [Bury Means Business website](#) has further information including eligibility criteria and an online application form.

If you have queries about the guidance or your eligibility, please email investin@bury.gov.uk



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Restart grants

These are available to help businesses reopen safely as coronavirus restrictions are eased across the country. [Find out more](#) including guidance and eligibility criteria before applying.



Could you be a Community Champion?

If you want to stay up to date with the latest on coronavirus and are willing to pass on that information to your community, find out more about becoming a Bury Community Champion.

We have launched a Covid-19 Community Champions network and are aiming to sign up hundreds of residents across the borough.

Those who get involved will receive regular updates on the latest advice and guidance, as well as fortnightly webinars where they can put questions to Bury's Director of Public Health, Lesley Jones.

The Champions will also be able to raise issues and concerns from their local communities and identify barriers to accessing information. They will be invited to Microsoft Teams meetings with the public health team to discuss issues and ideas. Find out more about becoming a [Community Champion](#).

Preparing for Covid-safe local elections

The Bury Council elections will take place on Thursday 6 May 2021 and everyone is asked to do their bit to ensure the ballot is Covid-safe.

In a double poll, voters will also be asked to choose a Mayor for Greater Manchester after last year's elections were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Measures will be in place to ensure polling stations are safe, and we ask people who are voting in person to abide by the important basics of hands, face and space.

The election count will be live streamed on Friday 7 May and the results announced on the council's social media and website.

Next update due Friday 7 May, 2021.

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



Hands



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Space



Air