

Public health briefing for the borough of Bury – 11 February 2022

Remaining Covid-19 rules to be scrapped early?

The Prime Minister announced in Parliament on 8 February that he expects the remaining restrictions around Covid-19 to be lifted a month earlier than planned. This would mean that, from 24 February, people who test positive for Covid-19 will not legally have to self-isolate.

However, this does not mean Covid-19 has gone away. While case rates are falling, they are still relatively high and could easily go back up again especially if a new variant emerges. Getting vaccinated and having a booster jab are the most important things we can do to protect ourselves and others.

The current rules around self-isolation for people who have a positive lateral flow or PCR test remain in place and, even if the rules do change, we should all continue to take an LFT test before meeting others and keep away from people if you test positive or have symptoms.

It is expected that lateral flow tests will continue to be provided for free beyond the end of February; however, more details are expected towards the end of the month.

As a borough, we will continue to closely monitor the situation but living safely with Covid-19 means we all need to continue with basic good hygiene measures which also help protect against other infectious diseases.

New rules around PCR testing for travel from 11 February

Following the continued decline in Covid-19 cases, from 11 February people who are fully vaccinated will no longer need to take a Covid-19 test either before leaving or after arriving in the UK.

Travellers who are not fully vaccinated, though, will need to take a pre-departure test and a PCR test on or before Day 2 after they arrive in the UK. They will not need to quarantine unless the result of the PCR test is positive.

In both cases people will need to complete a passenger locator form.

Families looking to travel abroad during half-term next week are advised to check Covid-19 vaccination rules when travelling to EU destinations, as some countries have recently imposed new restrictions or requirements.

More visitors welcomed at care homes

There is now no limit on the number of visitors allowed into care homes. Self-isolation periods have been cut, and care homes only have to follow outbreak management rules for 14 rather than 28 days. Visitors should check the rules for each care home before visiting.

England returns to Plan A

All measures under the Government's Plan B scheme have been lifted. This is due to falling Omicron cases and the continued success of the vaccination and booster campaign.

The Government now advises:

- People are no longer required to work from home.
- People will no longer need proof of vaccination or a recent negative test to enter nightclubs or large venues, but businesses may still use the NHS Covid Pass if they wish.
- It will no longer be compulsory to wear face coverings in public spaces or on public transport, although public health guidance advises people to wear face coverings in crowded or enclosed spaces.
- High school students will no longer need to wear face masks in corridors or other communal areas, although schools are still able to introduce this if they have high case numbers or outbreaks.
- People are encouraged to continue wearing face coverings in healthcare settings such as community pharmacies and GP surgeries.

The Government is still urging eligible people to get two vaccinations and a booster jab. If someone feels unwell, they are encouraged to get a Covid-19 test.

It is important to remember that, although the situation is improving, Covid-19 is not over and the basic 'Hands, Face, Space, and Air' measures that we can all take are still very important in protecting each other, alongside making sure you are fully vaccinated.

Changes to lateral flow testing

People who receive positive lateral flow (LFT) test results for coronavirus (Covid-19) are required to self-isolate immediately but are no longer required to take a confirmatory PCR test. It is important that anyone with a positive LFT registers their result following the instructions provided with the test kit.

People who may require financial support to self-isolate, however, will need to get a confirmatory PCR test (see further information below). Anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus should still book a PCR test.

Participants needed for national Covid-19 study

The PANORAMIC study is investigating whether new antiviral treatments for Covid-19 in the community can reduce the need for hospital admission and enable people to get better at home.

The nationwide study, funded by the National Institute for Health Research, is recruiting volunteers in Greater Manchester to take part in the study through the [PANORAMIC website](https://www.panoramictrial.org/).
(<https://www.panoramictrial.org/>)

To be eligible, people need to be currently experiencing Covid-19 symptoms that started in the last five days; have had a positive PCR test for Covid-19; and be aged 50 or over or aged 18 and over with a listed pre-existing condition.

Covid cases continue to drop

Cases of Covid-19 have continued to fall in all age groups across Bury. However, the decline is slowing down, and clusters and outbreaks in schools continue. Cases rates have started to rise again in the south of England so continued caution is required.

The latest data shows that, in the week to 4 February, the infection rate was 633.5 per 100,000 people, representing 1,210 new cases. Changes to the requirement for PCR testing mean that these figures are likely to underestimate the true number of cases.

7-day case figures:

Week ending 4 February: infection rate per 100,000 – 633.5 (1,210 new cases)

Week ending 29 January: infection rate per 100,000 – 726.2 (1,387 new cases)

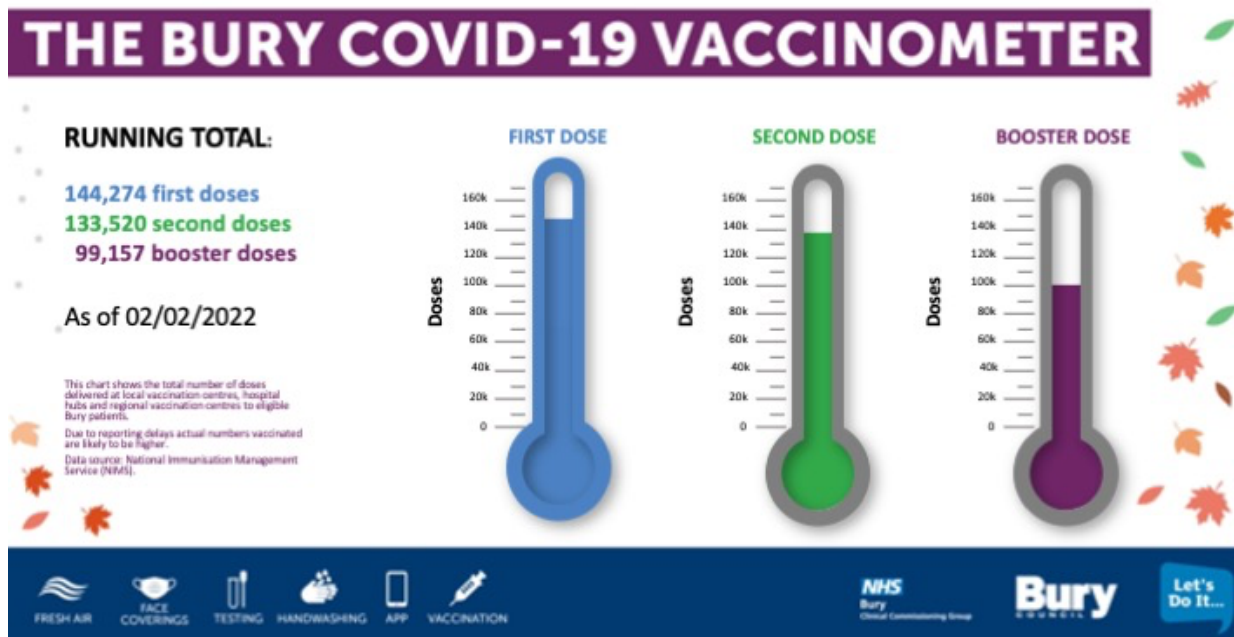
Week ending 22 January: infection rate per 100,000 – 907.9 (1,734 new cases)

Week ending 15 January: infection rate per 100,000 – 1,162.4 (2,200 new cases)

Vaccine and booster delivery going well

Figures for 2 February 2022 show that 99,157 people across Bury have now received a Covid-19 booster vaccination. The total number of first vaccinations delivered now stands at 144,274 and 133,520 second doses have also been administered

Bury's clinics continue to work at pace, giving thousands of Covid-19 and flu vaccinations every week – and there's no need to book.



Mums-to-be strongly advised to get vaccinated and boosted

Pregnant women are strongly advised to get two vaccinations and a booster to protect themselves from the increased risk of serious and devastating consequences of coronavirus (Covid-19).

The main priority is to increase the number of pregnant women getting two jabs (8 weeks apart) and encourage those who have done so to go for a Covid-19 booster three months or more after their second dose.

How to get a Covid-19 vaccination in Bury

Whether you're looking to get a first, second or booster jab, it's easy and convenient to get a Covid-19 vaccination in Bury. Eligible people can also get a flu vaccination at our local centres.

All the latest information on vaccine eligibility, when people are due to go, vaccine centre opening times and walk-in/pop-up sessions can be found at bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-vaccine

Where to get a vaccination

Bury has four local centres offering both flu and Covid-19 vaccinations on a walk-in or bookable basis, located at:

- Ramsbottom Civic Hall
- Elizabethan Suite, Bury
- Radcliffe United Reformed Church
- Prestwich Walk-in Centre.

People can book for these clinics at covid.nhsbookings.com/gmpcn to avoid waiting in a queue and guarantee a specific appointment time.

Vaccinations are also available by appointment at seven pharmacy sites in the borough of Bury:

- Strachan's Chemist, Walmersley Road, Bury
- Cohen's Chemist, St Gabriel's Medical Centre Pharmacy, Prestwich
- Asda Pharmacy, Spring Street, Bury (NB: until 18 February)
- Asda Pharmacy, Radcliffe (NB: until 24 February)
- Well Pharmacy, Church Street West, Radcliffe
- Well Pharmacy, Elms Square Precinct, Whitefield
- Barash Pharmacy, Bury New Road, Whitefield is offering appointments Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5:30pm. Walk in without an appointment or book via the [National Booking Service](#) / call 119. First dose, second dose and booster vaccinations for people aged 16+

There is also a regular vaccination clinic at Fairfield General Hospital which members of the public can attend. Anyone aged 16 and over can walk in or book via the National Booking Service. Vaccinations for young people aged 12 to 15 can be booked for this clinic via the National Booking Service or by calling 119.

Clinic times:

- Tuesday, 8.30am-5.30pm
- Wednesday, 8.30am-5.30pm
- Thursday, 10.30am-6.30pm
- Friday, 10.30am-5.30pm.

The centre, which does have some free parking at the front, is located at: Vaccination Hub, Education Centre, Rochdale Old Road, Bury BL9 7TD.

The Manchester Mass Vaccination Centre at the Etihad Campus is open 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week, and offers an alternative for people who can travel.

For bookings at pharmacies, Fairfield General Hospital and the Manchester Mass Vaccination Centre at the Etihad Campus (can also be found at the Elizabethan Suite, Ramsbottom and Prestwich clinics via this route), call 119 or click through to the [National Booking Service](#)

Upcoming walk-in or [pre-book](#) appointment clinics running at the Ramsbottom, Bury, Radcliffe and Prestwich vaccination sites are listed below:

First dose, second dose and boosters for age 16+

Date	Time	Venue
Saturday 12 February	8.30am-1pm	Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom BLO 9AJ
Sunday 13 February	8.30am-5.30pm	Elizabethan Suite, Bury Town Hall, Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 OSW

First and second dose for children aged 12 to 15

Date	Time	Venue
Saturday 12 February	8.30am-1pm	Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom BLO 9AJ

First dose, second dose and boosters for those aged 16+

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 16 February	9am-4.30pm	Prestwich Vaccination Clinic, Prestwich Walk-in Centre building, Fairfax Road, Prestwich M25 1BT

First and second doses for children aged 12 to 15

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 16 February	9am-4.30pm	Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom BLO 9AJ

Correct waiting time after positive Covid-19 test

People who have had a positive Covid-19 test need to wait before getting any dose of the vaccine. Those aged 12 to 17 need to wait 12 weeks (84 days), unless they are at high risk of illness, in which case the wait is just 4 weeks. People aged over 18 need to wait just 4 weeks (28 days).

This starts from the date they had symptoms, or the date of the positive test if they did not have any symptoms. Please choose a suitable appointment date when booking. They can also cancel and rebook an existing appointment for a later date if needed.

Check the latest clinics, and all other details of Bury's vaccination programme including eligibility, at bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-vaccine

Let's stay safe and follow the guidance

Existing public health guidance remains in place, including:

- staying at home if feeling unwell
- getting a PCR test if experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms
- regular handwashing
- taking up the offer of the free Covid-19 vaccine

If someone has Covid-19 [symptoms](#) they should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. They should arrange to have a PCR test (see below) as soon as possible. If this PCR test result is positive, they must continue to self-isolate.

People who do not have Covid-19 symptoms, but have a positive PCR or LFT test result, must stay at home and self-isolate. Anyone self-isolating with Covid-19 can now reduce their isolation period to

five full days if they test negative on both Day 5 and Day 6 and do not have a high temperature. Individuals who still test positive must remain in isolation until they have had two negative tests taken on consecutive days.

Anyone living in the same household as someone with Covid-19 is at higher risk of becoming infected. Therefore:

- Anyone aged 18 years 6 months or over, and is not fully vaccinated and lives in the same household as someone with Covid-19, is legally required to stay at home and self-isolate
- Anyone fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months, and lives in the same household as someone with Covid-19, is not legally required to self-isolate. However, they are strongly advised to take an LFT test every day for seven days, and to self-isolate if any of these test results are positive

Bury's Community Hubs are here 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 – excluding bank holidays) or text 07860 022876 (messages responded to by the next working day). Further information is [on the community hubs webpage](#).

Financial aid for people with a positive PCR test

People may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if they are legally required to stay at home and self-isolate or if they are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

People who may require financial support to self-isolate will need to get a confirmatory PCR test following a positive LFT, even if they have no symptoms.

Keep testing to stop the spread

If anyone needs an LFT test - to go to work outside the home or to get a PCR test because they have Covid symptoms - they can get the test they need in Bury.

LFT (Lateral Flow Testing)

There are several ways to get LFT kits in Bury:

- Collect them from a community pharmacy – find a participating outlet [here](#).
- Collect them from the Mosses Centre in Bury - just [book](#) a Click and Collect slot.
- Order online [here](#) and they'll be sent to your home address.

People who take an LFT test need to register the result, whether positive or negative. This can be done online or by phoning 119.

People who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (Covid-19) are required to self-isolate immediately but will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

Assisted lateral flow testing in Bury

Anyone who feels they need help to take a lateral flow test can now get it at four pharmacies in Bury. This free service is available to anyone who does not feel confident carrying out their own tests, and these tests are supervised and processed by pharmacy staff.

IQ Pharmacy, 14 Princess Parade, Bury BL9 0QL

Opening hours:

Mon-Fri: 9am to 5.15pm

Sat: 9am to 3pm

Forman's Chemist, 12 Park Hill, Bury Old Road, Prestwich M25 OFX

Opening hours:

Mon-Fri: 9am to 6pm.

Fishpool Pharmacy, 14 Parkhills Road, Bury BL9 9AX

Opening hours:

Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm

Sat: 9am-1pm

Manor Pharmacy, 367 Brandlesholme Road, Bury BL8 1HS

Opening hours:

Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm

Sat: 9am-1pm

Please note: This service is only available to people who **DO NOT** have any Covid-19 symptoms. The final tests of each day will be conducted 45 minutes before the closing times listed above.

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=16065>

Lateral Flow Test Kits available for collection at local libraries

We currently have 4 Libraries who have Lateral Flow tests kits for members of the public to collect when required. There is no need to book, simply turn up to get a kit. No code or information is required to be given.

The libraries are:

Bury Library

Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0DG

Tel: (0161) 253 5872

E-mail: bury.lib@bury.gov.uk

Tuesday 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Wednesday 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Thursday 12.30 am – 7.00 pm

Friday 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Saturday 9.30 am – 1.00 pm

Prestwich Library & Adult Learning Centre

Longfield Centre, Prestwich M25 1AY

Tel: (0161) 253 7214

E-mail: prestwich.lib@bury.gov.uk

Tuesday 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Wednesday 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Thursday 12.30 am – 7.00 pm

Friday 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Sunday 09.30 am – 1.00 pm

Radcliffe Library

Stand Lane, Radcliffe M26 1NW

Tel: (0161) 253 7160

E-mail: radcliffe.lib@bury.gov.uk

Tuesday 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Wednesday 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Thursday 12.30 am – 7.00 pm

Friday 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Saturday 09.30 am – 1.00 pm

Ramsbottom Library & Adult Learning Centre

Carr Street, Ramsbottom BL0 9AE

Tel: (0161) 253 5352

E-mail: ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk

Tuesday 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Wednesday 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Thursday 12.30 am – 7.00 pm

Friday 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Saturday 09.30 am – 1.00 pm

Getting a PCR test

If anyone has any of the three most common symptoms of Covid-19 (a new continuous cough, high temperature, loss or change of sense of taste or smell) they should get a PCR test as soon as possible to protect themselves and those around them. The PCR test sample will be analysed at a laboratory and the results will be received via text message, email or telephone.

A range of PCR testing options is available in Bury:

- No appointment required - Chesham Fold, Chesham Fold Road, Bury BL9 6JZ (9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday, closed on bank holidays)
- Appointment only - Mosses Centre, Cecil Street, Bury BL9 0SB. [Book online](#).
- Appointment only – Department of Health sites located in Prestwich, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom and Whitefield. [Book online](#).
- [Order](#) a home testing kit (delivered by post).

Call 0161 253 5515 to speak to someone about testing, how to book and availability or find more information [here](#).

Helping people through difficult times

Life has changed during the pandemic, and it's natural that people may feel worried or anxious, lonely or frustrated. If someone needs 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.

Anyone 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 services via our health and wellbeing hub on The Bury Directory.

Keep ahead with cold weather alerts!

Cold weather can be really dangerous, especially for people aged 65 and above. As we get older it takes longer to warm up, which raises the risk of increased blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes. Older people can also suffer serious harm if they slip and fall in icy conditions.

We're advising people to sign up to the Met Office's email alerts [here](#) so that they can get early warnings of bad weather and make necessary preparations.

Age UK and the UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England) have teamed up to produce some really helpful hints and tips for staying warm and well, perfect for printing out to give to older friends and relatives. Find them [here](#)

The next issue of this briefing will be on 18 February 2022.
For up-to-date information about Covid-19 visit
bury.gov.uk/coronavirus