

Briefing Note for SCB

Meeting on 3rd August 2020

COVID 19 Guidance issued 30th July 2020.

1. Background

On 30/7 the Government announced restrictions on people meeting others from outside their household or support bubble. Therefore, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 31st July 2020, separate households in Greater Manchester and other parts of the north including Bury will not be allowed to meet indoors.

Over the past few weeks we have seen increases in COVID-19 case numbers in neighbouring districts and across Greater Manchester. In Bury we have seen a rise in the number of new cases over the last week. While the absolute numbers of cases in Bury remain small, there are signs of an upward trend in infections. For the week up to 27th July 2020, Bury had 25 new cases of COVID-19, an average rate of 1.9 per 100,000 per day with most cases spread across a greater numbers of households than was seen in the previous weeks. For the preceding three weeks the average rate was 1.2 per 100,000 per day.

The new restrictions which came into force today advise that in Bury and the other affected areas:

- You should not meet people you do not live with inside a private home or garden, except where you have formed a support bubble.
- You should not visit someone else's home or garden even if they live outside of the affected areas, and vice-versa.
- You should not socialise with people you do not live with in other indoor public venues – such as pubs, restaurants, cafes, shops, places of worship, community centres, leisure and entertainment venues or visitor attractions. You can go to these venues with people you live with (or are in a support bubble with), but should avoid socialising with others.

All other existing guidance and advice remains in place and is unchanged.

2. Greater Manchester Wide Approach

The change in guidance applies to the Greater Manchester system as a whole. As a consequence Greater Manchester is working together as a single system and we are actively working with our partners and stakeholders across Greater Manchester and locally to ensure that our local communities know what this change means for them and their families.

This will involve consistent communications, consistent application of thresholds and consequent next steps of actions required should the number of cases continue to rise, and consistent engagement with national government.

3. Bury Response

Our role in Bury, and in accordance with our local outbreak plan, is to amplify the national and GM wide guidance in our local context.

Our public communication has focused on a few key messages:

- Recognising that Bury has seen an increase in cases over the last week or
- Restating the request for residents to comply with social distancing measures, use of face masks and handwashing
- Highlighting the new government guidance as of 30/7/20.
- Highlighting that for this to work and to avoid further restrictions being introduced, we need everyone to play their part and take responsibility for keeping our community safe. We need all Bury residents, communities and businesses to redouble their efforts to comply with the existing advice on face coverings, social distancing, getting tested and isolating if told to do so.

We are also working with local faith leaders, particularly in the Muslim community around plans for safe celebrations of Eid al-Adha. The celebrations should not involve hosting or visiting friends and family in each other's homes or gardens. It is recommended that if possible, prayer/religious services take place outdoors, however, people can attend a mosque or other place of worship where COVID-19 secure guidance applies, but they must socially distance from people outside of their household.

Consistent communications have been sent to all partners for circulation and cascade including

- All members
- MPs
- GPs
- Head teachers
- Business Leaders Group
- Governing Body
- Staff
- VCFA

4. Review

The number of location of cases will be kept under close review over the next few days, and working with GM colleagues Bury will implement further actions if required.

5. Useful links:

- North West of England: local restrictions – what you can and cannot do - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/north-west-of-england-local-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>
- New rules on gatherings in some parts of Northern England - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-rules-on-gatherings-in-some-parts-of-northern-england>
- Full guidance will be published on gov.uk/DHSC