



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Pharmacy services in Bedford Borough

Tell us what you think



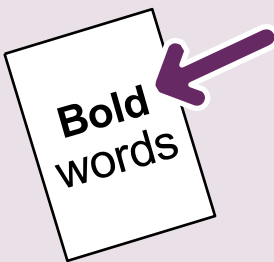
Easy Read



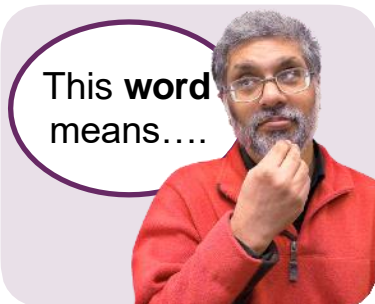
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this survey



Bedford Borough Council is looking at pharmacy services in Bedford Borough.



We have to look at pharmacy services every 3 years.



We want to know what you think about pharmacy services in Bedford Borough.



We need your answers by Saturday 21 June 2025.



You can answer the survey questions at the end of this document or online. To answer the questions online, please go to our website:
<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/your-council/have-your-say/consultations>

Looking at pharmacy services



When we look at pharmacy services we write a report called a **Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)**.

The PNA looks at:



- What pharmacy services we have now.



- What pharmacy services we might need in the future.

We use the PNA to help decide if we can:



- Let new pharmacies open.



- Let pharmacies change how they work.



We will use what people tell us about pharmacy services in Bedford Borough when we write our PNA.

About Bedford Borough



Just over 190,000 people live in Bedford Borough.



By 2028, we think that about 5,000 more people will live in Bedford Borough.



More than half the people who live in Bedford Borough are white, either British or Irish.



We expect men in Bedford Borough to live to about age 78 and women to about age 83.



We expect men in Bedford Borough to stay healthy until they are about age 61 and women until about age 62.



The health of most people in Bedford Borough is about the same as the whole of England.



But this is not the same for everyone.

People in Bedford Borough are more likely than people in the rest of England to:



- Have asthma.



- Be homeless.

People in Bedford Borough are just as likely as people in the rest of England to:



- Be overweight or **obese**.
Obese means very overweight.



- Get pregnant when they are younger than 18.

Pharmacies in Bedford Borough



There are 28 pharmacies in Bedford Borough.



8 doctor's surgeries in Bedford Borough have a pharmacy.



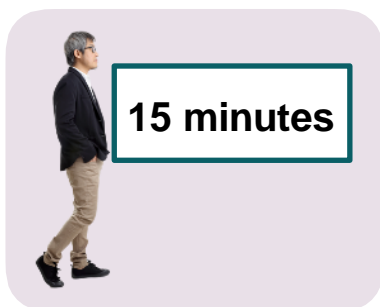
Bedford Borough has nearly 15 pharmacies for every 100,000 people.



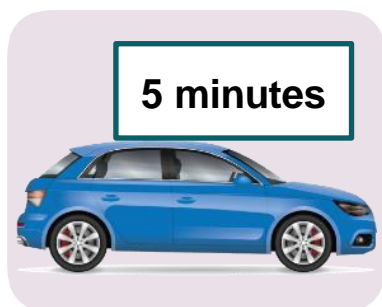
This is not as many as the rest of England.



Some parts of Bedford Borough have more pharmacies than others.



7 in 10 people could walk to a pharmacy in less than 15 minutes.



Most people could drive to a pharmacy in less than 5 minutes.



21 pharmacies in Bedford Borough are open on Saturdays, and 4 are open on Sundays.



We found out that there are lots of different pharmacy services in Bedford Borough which meet people's health needs.



People are able to get to and use these services.

Pharmacy services in Bedford Borough

There are lots of services you can get at pharmacies in Bedford Borough, like:



- Giving you medicines your doctor **prescribes**.

Prescribe means to give you a note for medicines you need.



- Recommending and selling you other medicines.



- Giving you advice about staying healthy.



- Safely throwing away your old or unwanted medicines.

Pharmacies in Bedford Borough can also:



- Help you go to the right health services.



- Help you with common illnesses that are not serious.

Some pharmacies also provide:



- Extra help for people who have long-term conditions.



- Help with emergency **contraception**.

Contraception is medicine to stop pregnancy.

Some pharmacies also provide:



- Help with stopping smoking.



- Help for people who are addicted to drugs.



- Help for people who drink too much alcohol.



- Help making people feel comfortable at the end of their lives.

What people told us



We asked people questions about pharmacies in Bedford Borough to find out what they think of them.



310 people answered these questions.



Most people have a pharmacy they prefer to go to.



Most people visit the pharmacy for themselves, but a lot also visit pharmacies for family members.



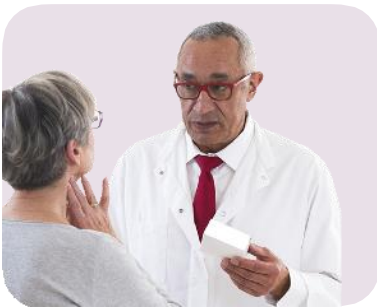
Most people use their pharmacy to collect **prescribed** medicines.

Prescribed medicines are medicines a doctor has given you a note for.

People also use their pharmacy to:



- Buy other medicines. Some of these are recommended by a pharmacist or pharmacy staff.



- Get advice about staying healthy.

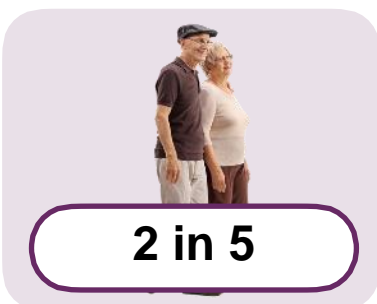


- Throw away their old or unwanted medicines safely.



1 in 2

1 in 2 people travel by car to their pharmacy.



2 in 5

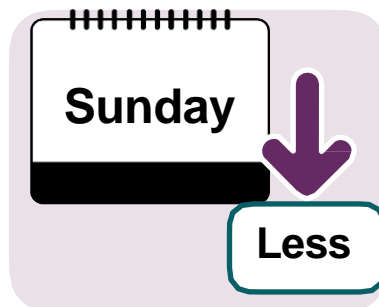
2 in 5 people walk to their pharmacy.



Most people use their pharmacy between 9am and 5pm on Monday to Friday.



More than 1 in 4 people use their pharmacy on a Saturday morning.



Not as many people use their pharmacy on Sundays.

Ways pharmacy services can be better



Generally, pharmacies in Bedford Borough meet the needs of the people in Bedford Borough.

We will carry on looking at:



- Where pharmacies are.



- When pharmacies are open.



- What services pharmacies provide.



We will try to encourage all pharmacies to provide all the services.



We will look at ways to help pharmacies make it easier for people who do not speak English to use pharmacy services.

Questions for you to answer



We need your answers by
Saturday 21 June 2025.



Remember, you can answer the
questions in this booklet, or on our
website:
[https://www.bedford.gov.uk/your-
council/have-your-say/consultations](https://www.bedford.gov.uk/your-council/have-your-say/consultations)

We will include what people tell us
when we write our final PNA.



If you have any questions about this
survey, or need the information in a
different way, like large print, please
email us:

public.health@bedford.gov.uk



Please write your answers to the questions in the boxes underneath each question.



Question 1: Is the information in this document about pharmacies in Bedford Borough right?

☐

Yes

☐

No

If you ticked 'no', please say why:



Question 2: Are there any gaps in pharmacy services that we have not written about in this document?

This might be when or where you can get pharmacy services, or what pharmacy services you can get.



Question 3: Do you agree with what this document says about the pharmacy services you need?

☐

Yes

☐

No

If you ticked 'no', please say why:



Question 4: Is there enough information in this document to make decisions about pharmacy services in the future?

☐

Yes

☐

No

If you ticked 'no', please say why:



Question 5: Do you agree with what this document says about how to make pharmacies better?

☐

Yes

☐

No

If you ticked 'no', please say why:



Question 6: Do you want to say anything else about pharmacy services in Milton Keynes?



Please send your completed survey to:

Bedford Borough Council
Public Health (PNA Consultation)
Borough Hall
Cauldwell Street
Bedford
MK42 9AP