



## **Message from the Chief Executive Althea Loderick**

I want to extend my ongoing thanks to you all! The current situation is incredibly difficult for people in terms of their physical and emotional wellbeing and I know all staff are working above and beyond the call of duty to support residents, particularly the most vulnerable, often while trying to care for friends and family.

This update has been created specifically for staff who don't have access to council IT systems so that we can keep you up-to-date on general news about Coronavirus and any issues specific to your service. Please check the new staff pages on the website: [www.Newham.gov.uk/staffinfo](http://www.Newham.gov.uk/staffinfo) regularly for updates.

Thank you!

# Coronavirus (Covid-19)

## Keeping you in touch

- This is a slide-based briefing which should be cascaded to all staff through line management chains and shared / discussed with all those who are not on email at weekly or daily briefings. It is issued to Managers at least 2x per week on Tuesday and Thursday, or more frequently as required. It can be also be accessed on the new staff information page: [www.Newham.gov.uk/staffinfo](http://www.Newham.gov.uk/staffinfo)
- More detailed information and guidance is on the [new Covid19 pages](#) on the Intranet and managers should ensure all staff (who have email) are able to access it.
- **This briefing covers:**
  - Latest national / regional / local figures re cases
  - Latest guidance and advice
  - Key messages for staff in Newham

# National and local status

The number of infections continues to grow, as of **5.30pm on 3 May 2020**:

- **186,599 cases** of coronavirus have been confirmed.
- There have been **28,446 deaths** in hospitals the UK.
- Newham has **955 confirmed cases**.
- We have had to reduce many council services to support social distancing or due to lack of staff.



# Key updates for staff 05/05/2020

- We are keen to ensure more **frontline staff have the opportunity to get involved** in **#AskAlthea** calls. To ensure they are more accessible, the calls will be made available via Zoom, where staff can join via any email address.
- The **next #AskAlthea call** will be held **Thursday May 7, 2.30-3pm**. All you need to do is sign up on the Eventbrite page, add your email address (can be personal or work), and we will send you details to join:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/askalthea-a-virtual-town-hall-for-all-staff-in-newham-council-tickets-103512484628>
- **Ramadan awareness and support information** for staff, colleagues and line managers is available online: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/coronavirus/ramadan>.
- We've launched **new Staff Information pages on the council website**, including more information on **PPE, testing, staff wellbeing, redeployment** information and more, as well as our regular bi-weekly updates. [www.Newham.gov.uk/staffinfo](http://www.Newham.gov.uk/staffinfo)

# Testing update

- **Testing is available to key workers** and their household members who may be self-isolating due to symptoms. The full list of essential workers can be found: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#essential-workers>
- The **test must be taken within the first 5 days of symptoms**, therefore is unsuitable for people who have self-isolated longer than 5 days.
- The turnaround between test and result is **48-72 hours**.
- **Access a test at home:** book an online test: <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/> (select home test)
- **Access a fixed site:**
- There are currently 2 sites near East London
  - O2 Arena, Edmund Halley Way, Greenwich, SE10 0PH
  - Lee Valley Athletics Centre, N9 0AR
- The sites are open between 10am and 5pm.
- **You can book** through the self-service portal : <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/> selecting the test site which works best for you.
- **Newham Council and care workers can also book a priority test** through the CCG by sending an email with the person's name and mobile number to [thccg.cv19@nhs.net](mailto:thccg.cv19@nhs.net) before 12pm.
- People who attend the **testing sites without an appointment will not be tested** and access to test sites is only for those in vehicles.



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# Spotlight on Rough Sleepers

- Our **Street Population Outreach Team** has been working hard to help rough sleepers and support people into accommodation throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.
- A Court Order was granted to temporarily close Stratford Mall between 8pm – 5am to protect the health of Rough Sleepers and the public.
- The outreach team set up an **emergency rest centre** and to ensure that **all Rough Sleepers were safe and able to self-isolate.**
- The team procured over **200 self-contained units of accommodation** and used the rest centre to rapidly support people (often with a range of complex needs) off the street and assess their health and support requirements before providing transport to the various hotels.
- In response to Covid-19, we have **supported 210 people into accommodation.**

# Thank you Newham staff

We've received more positive feedback from residents for the #HelpNewham hub.



Veronica Daly  
@VeeDaly

@NewhamLondon I am blown away by the support you are offering various vulnerable groups in the Borough which I saw first hand today as a @aNVolunteers. The people I met today were so incredibly grateful to receive their boxes; your support clearly meant a lot to them...



Veronica Daly @VeeDaly · Apr 21

I'm #volunteering with @aNVolunteers & @VolKinetic-#HELPNewham - 'Delivery Volunte..@aNVolunteers @TeamKineticUK tinyurl.com/ycn25lm8

6:15 PM · Apr 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App



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# Thank you frontline staff

This edition we take a look at some of the superheroes who have been keeping our waste collection operations going during these challenging times!

