



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 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
- 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 **5.04pm on 6 May 2020**:

- **201,101 cases** of coronavirus have been confirmed.
- There have been **30,076 deaths** in the UK.
- Newham has **964 confirmed cases**.
- We have had to reduce many council services to support social distancing or due to lack of staff.



Key updates for staff 07/05/2020

- 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.
- **Please note a change** of time for the **#AskAlthea call today (Thursday, May 7) 1pm-1.30pm**. 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>.
- This week's **corporate director blog** has highlighted the work being carried out by redeployed teams to help our residents and businesses. Staff usually working on **council tax debt collection have shifted to conducting welfare calls**, with some wonderful testimonials from residents as a result. The **business rates team** have worked above and beyond to ensure that grants have been paid out quickly to help keep local businesses afloat.

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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 before 12pm.
- People who attend the **testing sites without an appointment will not be tested**.



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Spotlight on trading standards

- **Newham Trading Standards** officers this week mounted a concerted operation in some of our busiest high streets to ensure trading compliance during Covid-19.
- The team visited at least 30 businesses trading on High Street North in East Ham, and the Upton Lane area of Forest Gate, taking action against those trading unlawfully or who were failing to properly enforce social distancing.
- **16 shops were given verbal advice, complied, immediately closed** and know that they'll be checked again;
- 5 shops were given advice about how to effectively manage social distancing during their trading hours;
- **2 closure notices were served**, when verbal advice to close was not followed;
- 2 Fixed Penalty Notices (or fines) were served for breach of a closure notice that had been served previously.
- If you suspect any business trading unlawfully, please email trading.standards@newham.gov.uk.



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Thank you Newham staff

- Thanks to the **transport service team**, including their manager John Wood and all the drivers who have continued to **drop children to school** but have also been supporting the **#HelpNewham Hubs**. Last week alone they were vital and **helped deliver around 4,000 parcels**.
- Our concierge officers in the **Housing team** have also gone above and beyond to keep residents safe. The team, led by Vlademir Pinto, have been providing an excellent service to the residents of around **1,700 flats in 29 tower blocks**. They have increased the number of staff to carrying out health and safety inspections, removing clutter, reporting communal repairs and ASB as well as checking in on vulnerable residents.



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