



## **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 **4.04pm on 11 May 2020**:

- **223,060 cases** of coronavirus have been confirmed.
- There have been **32,065 deaths** in the UK.
- Newham has **983 confirmed cases**.
- We have had to reduce many council services to support social distancing or due to lack of staff.



# Key updates for staff 12/05/2020

- One of our **colleagues has sadly passed away** recently due to Covid-19. The **Nurse Heath Visitor was working from Abbey Lane Centre** as part of the West Ham Lane Health Visiting Team. We send our condolences to her family and colleagues.
- Staff are reminded that if you need advice or support, please **ask for help at any time**. You can access our Employee Assistance Programme [www.employeeassistance.org.uk](http://www.employeeassistance.org.uk) (access code: Newham), with freephone access **24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year to counsellors and advisors** on 0800 328 1437 (minicom: 01482 661 814). You can also contact [hr@newham.gov.uk](mailto:hr@newham.gov.uk) to request a chat with a Mental Health First Aider.
- As services restart many staff may be concerned about **personal protection, face coverings** and how we can all remain safe in the new working arrangements.
- We are committed to the **current PPE and staff protection guidance** as outlined on the PPE pages at [www.newham.gov.uk/staffinfo](http://www.newham.gov.uk/staffinfo). We will be monitoring the government's announcements and adapting our guidance on PPE and face coverings. Any changes will also be aligned with service needs and in line with guidance from Public Health England.
- **Ramadan awareness and support information** for staff, colleagues and line managers is available online: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/coronavirus/ramadan>.

# Key updates for staff 12/05/2020

- This Wednesday (13 May), we will celebrate the fantastic contribution staff networks have made through **National Day for Staff Networks**, and we thought we should use the opportunity to launch the creation of staff networks for colleagues in Newham.
- Across many organisations, there is a whole range of staff networks in place, including: **Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Network**, **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans+ (LGBT+)** Network, **Disability** Network, **Wellbeing** Network, **Women's** Network, **Young Staff** Network.
- Successful staff networks **are built by staff, for staff** - so we want to hear what networks matter to you and what you want from them. The first step is to connect colleagues who have a passion to lead or contribute to certain networks, if you would like to get involved then please let us know by emailing [Internal.Comms@newham.gov.uk](mailto:Internal.Comms@newham.gov.uk), telling us what network you might be interested in joining and signing up for a [Skype / Zoom] meeting next Wednesday at 4pm.



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# Testing reminder

- **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**.



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# Spotlight on #HelpNewham hubs

- There **are eight #HelpNewham hubs** across the borough.
- Starting from **scratch six weeks ago**, the council used its own data to identify those who would **be most in need as a result of lock down**, including shielded older people, vulnerable families and youngsters, and people with disability.
- The council has **redeployed some of its own staff, and brought together an army of local volunteers** to make the hubs work in a way that has become the envy of other local authorities.
- The hubs **deliver over 5,000 parcels** across Newham each week
- The operation has **delivered 10,000 tins of soup, 4000 litres of milk, over 3 tonnes of potatoes, 3 tonnes carrots, 30,000 mushrooms, 3,000 heads of broccoli, 30,000 apples, 20,000 oranges, 20,000 bananas, 100,000 tea bags, around 2 tonnes of rice.**
- In addition council staff have made phone contact with **20,083 vulnerable residents** who we think may need support
- The hubs have also started to distribute tailored family boxes (including nappies and formula) to those young families most in need.
- Newham is working closely with **38 pharmacies and has delivered 4,215 prescriptions** in the first 17 days of operation.
- A truly overwhelming achievement!



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