



## 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 **4.01pm on 13 May 2020**:

- **226,463 cases** of coronavirus have been confirmed.
- There have been **32,692 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 14/05/2020

- The **government has published it's plans for recovering from coronavirus**. You can find the guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>
- The council will be **providing staff with more information** about next steps for our workforce. For now, if you can work from home you should continue to do so.
- If you **have to travel to work**, there is new advice on using public transport. You can find the guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>
- The guidance advises **people to wear face coverings** in enclosed spaces such as public transport and shops. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-advised-to-cover-faces-in-enclosed-spaces> )
- We are working carefully to **ensure our workplaces remain safe as more staff return** to work, with additional cleaning, spaces between working areas and providing staff with protective equipment.



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# Key updates for staff 14/05/2020

- 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.
- Service areas are reminded **that if you need help with getting Covid-19 information in other languages** to members of the community, you can contact **The Language Shop** (an interpreting and translation agency based in Newham Docksider). They can help with language services support, whether it is foreign language or sign language, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the team at [languageshop@newham.gov.uk](mailto:languageshop@newham.gov.uk).



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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 housing and business support

- The corporate director of inclusive economy and housing has provided an overview of the team's **ongoing work to help Newham residents and businesses throughout the pandemic.**
- Housing have **provided temporary accommodation for over 400 households** who were living with shared or no kitchen facilities into self-contained accommodation, including 60 of the most vulnerable families with children.
- Newham Business Desk has rapidly increased from 1 to 25 members of staff to provide support to **over 3000 businesses through phone calls and emails.** This support has assisted OneSource to **get over £125m of Government grants and rates relief** to local businesses.
- **Moneyworks have also provided financial advice and wellbeing support sessions** to over 10,000 residents through email and phone calls.

## Looking for financial support during this challenging time?

### We can support you with:

- Food bank vouchers
- Supermarket vouchers
- Energy vouchers



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