



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 **4.51pm on 18 May 2020**:

- **246,406 cases** of coronavirus have been confirmed.
- There have been **34,796 deaths** in the UK.
- Newham has **994 confirmed cases**.
- We have had to reduce many council services to support social distancing or due to lack of staff.



Key updates for staff 19/05/2020

- **Information about making council workplaces 'COVID-19 secure'** and in line with government guidance and social distancing measures has been circulated to staff.
- The changes may **mean some desks are closed off and staff may need to follow directions on entering, exiting and moving around council buildings** to ensure as much social distancing as possible. Appropriate cleaning and other regimes will also be implemented. The aim is to complete this work by early June.
- To enable social distancing, **this will result in a significant reduction in the maximum occupancy of each of our buildings and not all of them may be able to open.**
- Managers will this week **identify which teams need to return to work** and will **start conversations** with their teams about who may need to return to the workplace.
- The council is **also developing a workforce travel plan** that will make sure the best advice and arrangements are in place, including the use of face coverings. If you have any questions on any of the above please contact your manager.
- If you **have to travel to work**, there is new advice on using public transport:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>
- This is an **unprecedented situation** and we will be working hard over the next few days and weeks to address concerns and ensure we have a working environment that helps us manage the risks we all face. **Thanks for your hard work and patience** while we work together to find practical solutions.



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

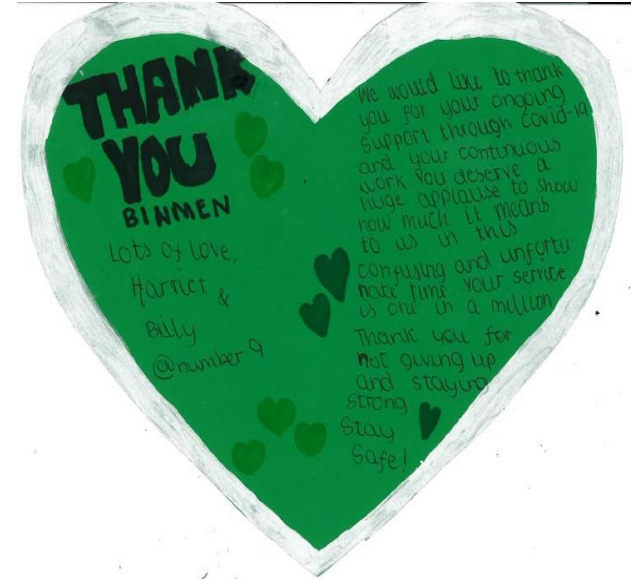


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Thanks to Newham staff

- A special shout-out to the efforts of **Jane Hodges**, who works in our troubled families team and does a lot to support vulnerable residents. During lockdown **she has single handily moved almost 1,000 family boxes** ready for distribution, and was part of the volunteer team that packed the boxes in the first place. Great job Jane!
- We've received more positive feedback from residents – this time thanking our waste collection team thanking them for their efforts during the pandemic.

“I have been impressed at how well you have managed to maintain residential waste collection services during the pandemic. Having waste, including recycling, collected has meant one less thing to worry about during the recent weeks of lockdown. Please let your waste and recycling staff know that their efforts are appreciated and a big thank you for their continuing to deliver great service in challenging circumstances.” - Steve Clark E16.



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