



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 **4.01pm on 03 June 2020**:

- **279,856 cases** of coronavirus have been confirmed.
- There have been **39,728 deaths** in the UK.
- Newham has **1,003 confirmed cases**.
- We have had to reduce many council services to support social distancing or due to lack of staff.



Key updates for staff 04/06/2020

- Over recent days, there have been **adaptations made to our office environment** so that the risk of contracting Covid-19 in the workplace is minimised.
- Remember, **you should continue to work from home**. If you have **agreed with your manager that you need to come into Dockside** you will now find -
 - **New signage** in buildings.
 - Some of the **desks have been closed off** to maintain social distancing with red transparent covers on chairs and notices stating that the desk is not to be used.
 - There are **floor markings** to help guide people through particular **one-way** circulation routes.
 - Only **one person is allowed in a lift** at any one time.
 - **Entry and exit routes** to the building have been re-engineered to keep you safe.
 - There are **new cleaning regimes** and we have improved access to sanitizers and wipes.
- All the operational desks are set up to be used with the new Smarter Newham devices – if **you don't have a device and you need to come into the office** you can request one from Smarternewham@newham.gov.uk
- To help manage **through this change we are developing short videos** and information for staff to explain how our buildings and offices will work with social distancing rules in place



Key updates for staff 04/06/2020

- The next **#AskAlthea** call is on **today (June 4) from 3.30-4pm**. You register to take part in the call via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/askalthea-a-virtual-town-hall-for-all-staff-in-newham-council-tickets-107522492670>
- Staff are able to **access a ½ day online Mental Health Awareness** training delivered via Zoom.
- The **4hr introductory course** is designed to increase mental health awareness, provide an understanding of how to look after wellbeing and challenge stigma towards mental health. The next course **runs from 9.30am to 1pm Friday (June 5)**. To book a place email wellbeing@newham.gov.uk
- 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 (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 and ask for a chat with a Mental Health First Aider.
- With some people returning to on site working, and advice to avoid public transport if possible, now is a great time to consider cycling to work. **The Cycle to Work scheme enables you to save money on a new bike** and accessories while spreading the cost over 12 months.
- The scheme is open to **permanent employees and employees on a fixed term contract with at least 12 months remaining**. For more information www.cyclescheme.co.uk.

Testing update

- **Testing** for Covid-19 is available in Newham, **with fixed and mobile site options for booking.**
- 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
- People who attend the **testing sites without an appointment will not be tested.**
- **Newham Council is also taking a lead role in the test, track and trace programme.** Find out more: www.newham.gov.uk/staffinfo



Spotlight on homeless service

- During the coronavirus pandemic the **Homelessness Prevention and Advice service** has remained accessible to residents by having a **skeleton staff of 5-7 officers** available to see those who don't have a mobile phone or access to the internet.
- The **Out of Hours** service they provide in the **evenings and weekends have placed 156 residents into emergency accommodation** through this period with referrals from the police, outreach teams, friends and **self-referrals and have seen a 300% increase** on the number of referrals they received before the lockdown. Of those placed they have provided accommodation for **49 rough sleepers and 67 single residents because of COVID19.**
- Despite losing a much loved colleague to the virus; they have pulled together as a team and kept **attendance to 95% throughout the lockdown period.** They have shown commitment to the goal of the team and Newham to ensure they have provide advice, assistance and accommodation to our most vulnerable residents. Thank you for all your work.



**People at the Heart
of Everything We Do**

Thank you Newham staff



- Another sensational thank you message for the work of staff and volunteers in our #HelpNewham hubs. This amazing embroidery was completed by a north Woolwich resident and handed to staff at North Beckton hub.