



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 **4.40pm on 10 June 2020**:

- **290,143 cases** of coronavirus have been confirmed.
- There have been **41,128 deaths** in the UK.
- Newham has **1,005 confirmed cases**.
- We have had to reduce many council services to support social distancing or due to lack of staff.



Key updates for staff 11/06/2020

- Two groups of people were advised to stay at home when lockdown commenced:
 - **People who are clinically extremely vulnerable** – often described as “shielding”
 - **People are clinically vulnerable** – often described as having underlying health conditions
- People who are **shielding are strongly advised by the government to stay at home** as much as possible and to keep time spent outside to a minimum.
- People who are **clinically vulnerable** were initially told stay at home for 12 weeks. The latest government guidance is that, while people in this category **should stay at home as much as possible, they can leave home (including to go to work)** so long as they stringently observe social distancing.
- This means that **employees who are clinically vulnerable could soon be asked to return to the workplace**, so long as:
 - the employee’s workplace has been made **“Covid-19 secure”**
 - all relevant health and safety measures, including **risk assessments and training**, are in place
 - the employee’s job role **cannot be undertaken effectively from home**
 - a “reintroduction to the workplace” meeting is held with the employee upon their return
- **Further guidance on these employees will follow.** Managers will contact employees in this category to explain the information set out above and ensure that if required they are prepared for a potential return to the workplace.
- Our approach **has not changed in relation to employees that are shielding**; managers **should not ask employees who are shielding to attend their place of work.**
- Employees **shielding should work from home wherever possible.**

Return to work reminder: 11/06/2020



- In effort to make our buildings Covid secure a number of changes have been implemented.
 - **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.
- 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
- The use of **face coverings on public transport is mandatory from 15 June** so please ensure that you are equipped.
- 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.

General updates for staff 11/06/2020

- 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 (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.
- **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.
- **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. Find out more about testing information on our dedicated webpage www.newham.gov.uk/staffinfo.



Thanks to Newham staff



Newham London ✓
@NewhamLondon

Here's another THANK YOU note from a resident, this time to our street cleansers. They have, like our waste & recycling crews, grounds staff, markets and workshop staff – been doing all they can to keep Newham safe and clean.

[#LondonTogether](#)



- Some more messages of thanks from local residents for the efforts of members of our waste collection team.



OtteredMind | Anthony @OddOtter · 6d ✓

Replying to [@NewhamLondon](#)
[@rokhsanafiaz](#) and [@JamesAsser](#)

Our local dude, Eddie in East Ham, is brilliant. He's always in a good mood no matter how much garbage he has to deal with and always has a cheery hello for everyone. Another guy was tidying bricks on the pavement from a toppled wall. They all work so hard and are appreciated!



Thanks to Newham staff

- Delighted parents have also thanked the Specialist Health Visiting Team for their work helping children with additional needs. The team has provided families who are having challenges in their homes during this lockdown period with these amazing resource boxes. Yet another shining example of how our staff are helping residents in Newham.

