



Message from the Chief Executive Althea Loderick

I want to extend my ongoing thanks to you all. The past few months have been incredibly difficult for people in terms of their physical and emotional wellbeing. As services begin to reopen, we are asking a very limited number of colleagues to return to the workplace, to join the many that have been undertaking front-line duties throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. While a small number of you will be returning, many of you will continue working from home. We want to ensure we continue to support you regardless of where you are working. I know all staff are working above and beyond the call of duty to help us continue servicing our local community.

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 **4pm on 22 June 2020**:

- **305,289 cases** of coronavirus have been confirmed.
- There have been **42,647 deaths** in the UK.
- Newham has **1,013 confirmed cases**.
- We have had to reduce some council services to support social distancing or due to lack of staff.



Return to work update: 23/06/2020

- The **2 metre distancing rule is under review by government** this week. As all of our work spaces have been made 2m safe, **we're in a really good position to revisit the use of our spaces if changes are made** albeit we are stressing the need to be cautious with any further relaxing of the rules.
- As some staff return to work, we are reminding you to **please remember to be mindful** of the current 2m distance and not put others into the awkward position of having to ask you to move away.
- Don't forget our **overall approach** on working is still based on the following two principles:
- 1. If **an employee is able to effectively undertake their job role at home**, then in line with government guidance, they will not be asked to attend the workplace.
- 2. If **a manager needs to ask an employee to attend the workplace, that workplace will be "Covid-19 secure"** and all required health and safety measures, including risk assessments and training, will be in place.
- Those returning onsite working will find **'Covid-19 secure' workplaces, within which social distancing** will be observed and new protocols will be observed for travelling around buildings, cleaning workstations and using shared facilities such as kitchen equipment and printers.
- We are doing everything we can to ensure that your health and safety is protected and that the **risk of you contracting Covid-19 at the workplace is minimised.**



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Reminders for staff: 23/06/2020

- If you chose to travel to work by car, **parking at your destination will be very limited**. Priority will be given to vulnerable groups who cannot work from home and must travel to work.
- Staff with parking spaces allocated at Dockside should not have been charged for the month of May and we are **maintaining a no charge policy at Dockside until August 2020** when we will review the position.
- For the small number of staff that do need to travel into work by car for **short periods such as 1 or 2 days there will be no charge for parking at Dockside** but before you travel you must email business support in advance BusinessSupport.CarPark@newham.gov.uk
- All staff **currently allocated a space will be able to retain it** but if you wish to cancel your Dockside car parking please email BusinessSupport.CarPark@newham.gov.uk and copy in Payments.Control@newham.gov.uk
- For those staff considering 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.
- 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.

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Spotlight on public health

- **Public Health continue to play a key role** to both officers and residents. Here's a snapshot of what the team has been up to recently:
- Commissioning, contracts & programme teams have provided virtual training and daily monitoring, support and advice calls to **155 Newham care providers**. Through central procurement we **have issued essential PPE, including a staggering 153,090 aprons, 527,905 gloves, 132,082 surgical masks and 1007 litres of hand sanitiser** for their front line care staff.
- The **Integrated Hospital Discharge Hub** set up together with partners to ensure patients are discharged from hospital safely whilst easing NHS bed pressures. Over the **last 11 weeks, 605 patients have been discharged**, with the majority being discharged on the same day as referral.
- Our in-house **Day Opportunities Services** have responded spectacularly well to the pandemic, **making over 300 calls a week to residents aged 70+**, many of whom are living with dementia.
- They've also adapted activities to online and for those that cannot access this, the team have **delivered activity packs to over 100 customers**.



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- The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted the need we have as a society to support and **care for our most vulnerable residents.**
- During the pandemic, many people took **on additional caring responsibilities** for their relatives and friends who are vulnerable. And that's it is more important to **raise awareness of caring**, highlighting the challenges unpaid carers face and to recognise the enormous contribution they make.
- Fittingly, the theme of this year's Carer's Week campaign was to **Make Caring Visible.**
- Staff were keen to pledge their support to raising the profile of Carers in the borough as well as recognising and meeting their needs early in their caring journey.



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