



Important Food Safety Update for VCS, faith sector and local mutual aid groups



Are you providing food of any kind for Newham Residents?

If your organisation is based in Newham and providing food of any kind for residents you need to register with Newham Council's Food Safety team. This applies to charities, community groups and places of worship as well as individuals providing food support for others. It is the law, and you are meant to register 28 days prior to starting your food activity. You will not get into trouble for registering late, as Newham Council is keen to support organisations to register and help organisations achieve Food Safety standards. During this time it is even more important that we ensure vulnerable people are not impacted by receiving food that is not safe. You should register now, and not delay.

What kind of food activity needs to be registered?

- Food banks providing dried and tinned food
- Food distribution - sharing fresh, chilled, frozen food including surplus food
- Cooking or reheating food for others
- Food delivery or transportation – services which involve collecting food (from a food bank or supermarket) and delivering it to a resident
- Making cakes, sandwiches, etc. regularly or in bulk
- Making food parcels or preparing/cooking food from your own home for distribution to others beyond your own family and friends

Are there any activities that are excluded from registration?

- childminders operating from their home
- certain forms of sheltered accommodation where staff help residents prepare meals rather than provide a catered service
- Providing refreshments where there is minimal food preparation– such as soft drinks, teas, coffees, shop bought cakes and biscuits etc. that do not require refrigeration
- refreshments prepared for a one-off or occasional events, such as a one-off charity coffee morning or annual staff event

How do I register?

Registration is free. You can register using this link [here](#)

What happens once I have registered?

The council food safety team will acknowledge your registration. They will get in touch if they need to seek any clarification about your service, and will offer you advice and guidance. If you have any questions or want help, you can always contact them directly at any time.

The details of your organisation will appear on the published register. You can see the register [here](#)

How do I get more information?

You can find more information about food safety on the council's website [here](#)

You can find out more about registering your organisation [here](#)

The Newham Food Safety team are keen to support you to achieve safe food practice. You can call them for any advice on [020 3373 7709](tel:02033737709). They will be happy to discuss the type of food activity you are carrying out and whether you need to register. They can also give you guidance about how to achieve good food safety practice.