

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 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 once a week on 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 Covid-19 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 advice and guidance
- Key messages for staff in Newham

#AskAlthea this Thursday at 2-2.30pm

Althea will be hosting an #AskAlthea call this Thursday 22 October, from 2-2.30pm. The call will be hosted on Zoom and you can join via the link below, think of a question you would like Althea to answer – nothing is out of bounds. Join the call using the Zoom link below, or via phone just before 2pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Phone: 0208 080 6592

Meeting URL:

<https://zoom.us/j/93226018279?pwd=TWsxaDIQbGIEazBMQnVaay9BeGVWUT09>

Meeting ID: 932 2601 8279

Passcode: 231596

Dockside's café and restaurant areas will be closed this week

Dockside's café and restaurant areas have been closed today, and are likely to remain closed for the remainder of this week. This follows a member of kitchen staff testing positive for Covid-19, and other members of catering staff therefore being told to self-isolate.

Juniper don't believe at this point that there is any enhanced risk to members of staff who have recently used the restaurant and café areas. However, in line with best practice, they will be carrying out an enhanced deep clean of the area and of all equipment.

Congratulations to the Newham Colleague Awards winners

For those 230-plus colleagues who joined the Zoom presentation, we hope you enjoyed yourself. Thank you for all the lovely messages to the winners and 'shout outs' for all the great work teams and individuals have done through the pandemic. For those who were not able to attend, here are the awards and winners.

To all those who were nominated, shortlisted and to those who won, congratulations. And also a huge thank you to all of you who continue to do great work every single day, your efforts and achievement are valued and recognised, without all of you we could not continue to do all the great work that happens across Newham every single day.

Outstanding Covid-19 Redeployee Award

This award recognises and awards one outstanding redeployee for their valuable contribution to the Council whilst being redeployed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The finalists:

Wayne Greaves

Syed Haque

Nick Marks

Not only did they go over and above their usual day job, but they have also done their best to improve the efficiency of the current administration systems at the mortuary. They have been a positive influence on the mortuary team and have inspired them to be receptive to new IT changes to make the record-keeping more efficient. They demonstrated that they are an asset to Newham and have stepped up in times of crisis.

The winner is... Nick Marks

Congratulations Nick, and a big thank you for stepping up and for so wonderfully demonstrating the real heart behind our values.

Outstanding Covid-19 Volunteer Award

This award recognises and awards one outstanding colleague employed by the Council for their volunteering work in Newham and their valuable and selfless commitment.

The finalists:

Chanel Edwards

Carmen Seguer

Joane Thompson

The winner of this category volunteered to be a Covid-19 Champion in Newham. They travelled around in the community after work hours, promoting key Covid-19 safety messages to businesses to ensure they were aware of current Government guidelines. They always make time for clients at work and outside of their working hours as C19 Champion. The winner of this award is a positive influence on the community and continually worked to keep infection rates low. They are an asset to Newham and deserve this award for all their tireless efforts.

The winner is... Joane Thompson

Congratulations and a big thank you to Joane for being a wonderful advocate for Newham, and for all her work to keep Newham safe.

Outstanding Covid-19 Team Award

This award recognises and awards a team that continued to deliver its services throughout lockdown and beyond.

The finalists:

Bereavement Services

Moneyworks

Trading Standards

The winner of this category adapted their ways of working so that they could offer the best possible assistance to Newham's families. They worked to ensure that the families were assisted in every way possible to register deaths quickly and to enable the funerals to take place as soon as they could. The Registrars saw each family and treated them with compassion and professionalism. It took a huge emotional toll on the staff who maintained a professional service throughout the pandemic with little regard for the fact that they could be at risk themselves.

The winner is... Bereavement Services

Congratulations and thank you to the team for constantly going beyond and above to help families in time of need. Their work, support and help has meant so much to so many families in Newham.

Zooming in on our new training needs

As more colleagues across the Council are finding that Zoom is an essential tool in connecting to our colleagues, partners and residents, look out for some dedicated training on how to make the most of it.

Wednesday 21 October from 2-3pm there's a drop-in session for colleagues who want their burning questions answered

Book via the link on the events section of the Intranet and keep a look out here for more sessions run by Sylvia Ottway.

London has moved to tier 2 restrictions

From 12.01am on Saturday 17 October London moved to tier 2 restrictions. In addition to national rules around social distancing; face coverings and self-isolation, the following additional measures are in place for London:

- People must not meet with anybody outside their household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place.
- People must not meet in a group of more than six outside, including in a garden or other space.
- People should aim to reduce the number of journeys they make where possible. If they need to travel, they should walk or cycle where possible, or to plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport.

National and local status

The number of infections recorded as of **10am on 21 October 2020**:

- **762,542 cases** of coronavirus have been confirmed.
- There have been **43,972 deaths*** in the UK. Of those **220*** were in Newham.
- Newham has had **3081 positive cases since the start of pandemic**.
- Public Health Newham have also created a **weekly dashboard of Covid-19 information**: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-dashboard/1>

** Where death has occurred within 28 days of positive Covid test*

Hands. Face. Space.

- Remember the basics - **Hands. Face. Space.**
- **Staying home is key:** If you have symptoms **isolate for 10 days**. Do this until you have a negative test. If you live with someone or have had close contact with someone who has symptoms you need to **isolate for 14 days**, having your own test, unfortunately, doesn't make a difference as you may still be incubating the virus. Only if the person who had symptoms is negative can you stop isolating.
- **Stay 2m away from people you don't live with; wash your hands regularly; wear a face-covering inside and outside if you can't stay 2m from people.**
- **Ask for help when you need it:** isolating is hard, particularly when we've just started to come back into seeing people. And limiting who we see is hard. Newham's COVID-19 help line remains open 1pm-7pm, 7 days a week on 0207 473 9711 (1-7pm, 7 days a week).

Social distancing reminder

- With the number of **new Covid-19 cases on the rise both in Newham and nationally**, it is vital **that everyone that does access our offices or other work sites follows all of Newham's workforce social distancing protocols.**
- Staff are to maintain the **2 metre distancing rule at all times** (wherever practically possible) when working in any Council building.
- We have **increased cleaning regimes & improved access to sanitisers & wipes**: please use these to minimise the risk of infection.
- **Only one person is allowed in a lift at any one time** – enclosed spaces increase the risk of infection.
- **Staff are to use stairs to go down & elevators to go up** floors (unless they cannot use stairs).
- Some of **desks have been closed off to enable staff to maintain social distancing**, Only use desks identified as being available to use.
- Any **one-way building circulation advice and meeting room capacities should be strictly followed.**
- You should make **increased use of the hand sanitisers and desk wipes that have been made available at our open sites.**
- **Strictly follow any advice on face coverings or personal protective equipment that you have been issued with** in relation to your particular role.

Testing

- If you have symptoms, stay home for 10 days and to try and get a test if you can.
- If you are worried about your symptoms **please call NHS 111 or your GP.**
- The walkthrough test site in East Ham is currently seeing high demand so **you should not attend without a booked test** (as you may not be able to get a test as a walk-up).
- If you live with someone who has symptoms you **need to stay home for 14 days.**
- If you have been in close contact with someone who has received a positive test or has symptoms, **stay home for 14 days.**
- If you develop symptoms during isolation, **try to get a test and stay home.**
- Please **do not get tested if you have no symptoms.**
- The new NHS Test and Trace App is an additional tool that you can use to help keep yourself safe and stop the spread of the virus. www.newham.gov.uk/testandtrace
- **Health and social care COVID-19 priority testing is available.**
- NHS and Social Care staff and members of their household can access priority testing if they have symptoms via the NEL Portal: <https://nhscovidtestlondon.onk2.com> or by calling 0191 691 3656.