

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. 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

National lockdown starts on Thursday

As you will all be aware by now, on Saturday the PM announced the Government's decision to impose a minimum four-week lockdown amid a surge in Covid-19 infection rates which were anticipated to lead to a surge in hospitalisations and deaths. Our work now is to step up to the challenge to support and protect our residents through this period.

Work is now well underway to assess what we need to do differently, what services may need to change or pause, and where staff need to be redeployed to support those services that will be put under the greatest pressure. At present, we don't expect the same level of service closures and disruption that we saw in the first period of lockdown. We need to be sure that we have the right resources in the right place to protect essential services and cause as little disruption to others as possible.

National lockdown starts on Thursday

We will be updating staff with further information as soon as it is available, this will include:

- Service updates, including what services are being paused and which require extra support
- Shielding protocols, we are expecting the updated policy to be issued on Wednesday 4 November once we receive finalised guidance from government – but as you may have already seen, the situation is not the same as the first lockdown and most people will still be able to attend their workplace where this is necessary to support service delivery
- Redeployment, staff who may be required to redeploy will receive a letter shortly

In line with the government's stay at home guidance, staff who can work from home should do so, but we know that some employees will need to continue to attend their regular workplace in order to provide essential services to our residents. If you are not sure whether you should stay at home or attend the workplace, please speak to your line manager.

National lockdown starts on Thursday

We are still waiting for full information on the rules but what we know so far is:

- All pubs and restaurants must close, takeaways and deliveries can continue
- All non-essential shops, leisure centres, gyms and entertainment venues must close
- You must stay at home except for education; work that cannot be done from home; exercise; medical reasons; shopping for food and essentials, or to care for others
- You must NOT mix with other households indoors or in private gardens
- Support bubbles for people who live alone and single parents with children can continue
- Children are allowed to move between homes if their parents are separated
- Individuals can meet one person from another household in an outside public space
- Workplaces should stay open if people cannot work from home – including construction and manufacturing
- Clinically extremely vulnerable people should not go to work, even if they are unable to work from home – the definition of “clinically extremely vulnerable” is very specific and further information on this category can be found www.gov.uk/coronavirus

You can find the latest government info www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Food poverty and support for residents

If you or someone you know is experiencing difficulty accessing food, the council-backed Newham Food Alliance will be able to provide food and food boxes. We are making additional support available to the Food Alliance to ensure it can meet any additional demand this half term.

The Newham Food Alliance pairs Newham residents with local voluntary, community and faith organisations who can provide nutritious food locally. The provision includes hot food and food boxes to fit different dietary requirements and cultures.

To refer yourself or someone else to the Newham Food Alliance, please complete the online form at www.newham.gov.uk/newhamfoodalliance

The COVID-19 Helpline can provide further advice and information for people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact the Helpline at 020 7473 9711 or covidhelp@community-links.org. (Open 1-7pm, 7 days a week, available in multiple languages)

You can find further information, including a full list of food services and support offered to Newham's residents on the intranet [here](#) or search *residents food*.

Islamophobia Awareness Month

Newham Council is proud to mark Islamophobia Awareness Month, highlighting the threat of Islamophobic hate crime. The month will also spotlight and celebrate the positive contribution of British Muslims to culture, local communities, society in general and to this borough in particular. Newham's Islamophobia Awareness Month 2020, will feature a number of webinars with high profile and inspirational speakers.

Newham's Islamophobia Awareness Month Webinar

Wednesday, 4 November 2020, 6-7.15pm

The webinar will include the following guest speakers & topics of discussion:

- Cllr Rohit Dasgupta, Commissioner for Social Integration and Equalities in Newham
- Ehtasham Haque, The Muslim Council of Britain (What is Islamophobia?)
- Superintendent Waheed Khan, Metropolitan Police (Measures taken to counter hate crime)
- Muhammad Uddin, Newham Muslim Forum (Contribution by the Muslim community during Covid-19)

The talk will be followed by a Question and Answer session.

Book on [Eventbrite](#) search *Islamophobia Awareness Month Newham eventbrite*

Islamophobia Awareness Month

Celebrating Inspirational Muslim Women - Changing Perceptions

Wednesday, 11 November 2020, 5-6pm

- Cllr Charlene McLean, Deputy Mayor for Communities - Lead Member for Resident Engagement and Participation
- Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney, Newham's Commissioner for Children and Young People Services
- Akeela Ahmed MBE, Equalities Activist and Campaigner

More panellists still to be announced.

The talk will be followed by a Question and Answer session.

Book on [eventbrite](#) search *Islamophobia Awareness Month Newham eventbrite*

Changes to Mayor of Newham's cabinet

The Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz OBE, yesterday confirmed two changes to her Cabinet team. Cllr Charlene McLean has been appointed Statutory Deputy Mayor, in addition to her existing role as Cabinet lead for Resident Engagement and Participation. Cllr Shaban Mohammed has been appointed Cabinet lead for Housing Services following his successful role as a Deputy Cabinet Member for this area.

IT support for Smarter Newham devices

IT has been working closely with the Smarter Newham team to transition the support service across to IT. From Thursday 5 November, the Smarter Newham support telephone number will be decommissioned. If you have any support issues after that time, including repairs to existing devices, please contact IT by raising a request through the [IT Contact Us form](#) which can be found on the Dash forms portal. To request devices for new starters, please complete the IT Orders form which is part of the New Starter request form.

Smarter Newham will continue deploying devices to staff already identified as part of the programme.

National and local status

The number of infections recorded as of **1.50pm on 4 November 2020**:

- 1,073,882 **cases** of coronavirus have been confirmed.
- There have been **47,250 deaths*** in the UK. Of those **231*** were in Newham.
- Newham has had **4,288 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.