

Message from the Chief Executive Althea Loderick



I want to extend my ongoing thanks to you all. The past 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

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

There are now weekly **Covid-19 Safe Working Webinars**, details can be accessed from the news section of the intranet

In addition, two documents to help with Covid-19 Safe Working have been created by Public Health

Covid-19 Safe Working Guide [here](#)

Winter Preparation Guide [here](#)

These can also be accessed from the news section of the intranet.

Standing Up To Violence Against Women

Human Rights Day, on Wednesday 10 December, marked the end of a 16-day campaign to highlight the challenges facing domestic violence victims and survivors.

During the campaign we have encouraged colleagues, residents, providers and survivors to share a picture on social media with the promise to '**Never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women**' using the hashtag **#NoExcuseForAbuse**. Speaking out and preventing domestic abuse is everyone's business, we cannot stress this enough.

In Newham we have a range of services to help and support residents, you can find details at <https://www.newham.gov.uk/health-adult-social-care/domestic-violence-support> or simply search Domestic Violence Support on the Newham Website. there is button to take you to a new blank Google search page is you need to leave the page quickly.

If it is happening to you, or you are concerned that someone you know is being subjected to abuse, please don't suffer in silence.

43rd Newham Christmas Toy Appeal



The Newham Christmas Toy Appeal is in its 43rd year and they need support more this year than ever before.

Supporting Newham most in-need children, the appeal is aiming to provide each child it helps with a Christmas stocking of new gifts specific to their age, needs, abilities and wherever possible, their most wished for gift, to open on Christmas morning, so that they can experience a really special Christmas day.

Search ***Newham Toy Appeal 2020*** to find out how to support the appeal.

Positive signs of improvement: Children's services Ofsted focused visit

Newham's Children's Services are showing positive signs of improvement and have delivered a well-coordinated response to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Ofsted.

The children's services watchdog paid a three-day "focused visit" to Newham at the end of October. Inspectors explored work across children's social care services, including key decision making in help and protection, children in care and services for care leaves. They also took a close look at how the council has worked with schools and health services to meet the needs of vulnerable children during the pandemic.

Ofsted found lots of examples of improvement, and also highlighted areas where further progress is still needed.

The findings are a great step forward and testament to all the hard work and dedication of staff in Children's Services.

New Tier-2 Rules

The government has replaced the current Covid-19 guidelines with an updated tiers system, with different levels of restrictions in different parts of the country.

Newham has been placed in Tier 2, with the new rules coming into effect from the beginning of Wednesday 2 December.

New Tier 2 rules

- Meeting friends and family: You must NOT mix with other households indoors
- Support bubbles for people who live alone and single parents with children can continue
- You can meet up to 5 other people – maximum of 6 in a group including yourself – outdoors, including public outdoor spaces
- All pubs and restaurants must close, unless they are operating as restaurants
- Hospitality businesses and venues selling takeaway food and drink can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery, click-and-collect or drive-through.
- Non-essential shops including retail, entertainment, accommodation, personal care (hairdressers, beauty salons, and nail bars) and indoor leisure centres can open

New Tier-2 Rules - continued

- Children can continue to move between homes if their parents are separated
- Schools, universities and places of worship remain open
- Weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees. 15 people can attend wedding ceremonies and receptions, 30 people can attend funeral ceremonies, and 15 people can attend linked commemorative events such as wakes or stone settings
- Aim to reduce the number of journeys you make. If you need to travel, you should walk, drive or cycle where possible, or plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport
- Avoid travelling into tier 3 areas (except where necessary)
- Continue to work from home if you can
- Spectator sports, theatre and entertainment will be allowed to resume both indoors and outdoors, but with limited numbers and social distancing in place
- For outdoors, 2,000 people (or 50% of usual capacity, whichever is lower) will be allowed to attend in tier 2. Indoors, the limit is 1,000 people.

Find further information [here](#) or on the Newham website

Christmas Covid-19 rules

During the Christmas period, some Covid-19 restrictions will be eased. When following these new rules, please continue to take personal responsibility to limit the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones, particularly if they are vulnerable, by following the general guidance – hands, face, space here. For many, this will mean that it is not possible to celebrate Christmas in the way you normally would.

- Between 23 and 27 December 2020:
- you can form an exclusive 'Christmas bubble' composed of people from no more than three households
- your Christmas bubble replaces any existing bubble you are part of, unless your entire existing bubble is part of your Christmas bubble
- you can only be in one Christmas bubble
- you cannot change your Christmas bubble

Christmas Covid-19 rules - continued

- you can travel between tiers and UK nations for the purposes of meeting your Christmas bubble
- you can only meet your Christmas bubble in private homes or in your garden, places of worship, or public outdoor spaces
- you can continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside your home, in accordance to the rules in tier 2 and following social distancing guidelines [here](#)
- you cannot meet someone in a private dwelling who is not part of your household or Christmas bubble
- you should not join a Christmas bubble if you are self-isolating. If someone tests positive, or develops coronavirus symptoms up to 48 hours after the Christmas bubble last met, everyone will have to self-isolate.

Find out more about forming a Christmas bubble on the [Newham website](#)

National and local status



The number of infections recorded as of **2pm on 9 December 2020**:

- **1,750,241 cases** of coronavirus have been confirmed.
- There have been 62,033 **deaths*** in the UK. Of those 269* were in Newham.
- Newham has had **8,282 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.