

**STATEMENT ABOUT CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)  
FROM MAYOR ROKHSANA FIAZ**

**13 March 2020**

Dear Newham Resident,

I am sorry to report that Newham has its first confirmed case of COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus). Although we don't have any more detail about this person or how they contracted the virus, I wanted to reassure you all that all of us at the council are working hard, alongside colleagues in the health profession, to do everything in our power to minimise the impact of the spread of this illness.

The news that the virus has officially reached us here in Newham is not unexpected, and even before today's confirmation I can assure you that we have been working diligently behind the scenes to prepare for what we knew was inevitable.

On behalf of everyone at Newham Council I would like to take this opportunity to send our thoughts and good wishes to the person who has fallen ill. We hope they make a full and speedy recovery.

We are working very closely with colleagues in the National Health Service to support Public Health England and the national effort to prevent the transmission of Coronavirus and delay its spread.

My thanks to our health partners who are working hard to support us all, but we can all do our bit to help by taking notice of and sharing the public health personal hygiene messages that can keep us, our families, and our community safe.

I would particularly ask Newham residents to think about how to avoid exposing the elderly and vulnerable to risk of infection. We all need to take responsibility for one another and that means doing everything we can to reduce the risk of spreading infection.

In addition to spreading the message about good hygiene and advice on keeping safe, the Council has increased cleaning regimes across all our sites including offices, libraries and community centres.

We continue to be in close contact with health partners to receive specialist advice so that all the relevant services are well-equipped and ready to respond. We are also linking with faith and community groups to help them support their communities to stay safe and reduce risk of spreading infection. The safety of residents is - and always will be – paramount.

All the latest and best advice on keeping well is available on our website [www.newham.gov.uk](http://www.newham.gov.uk). This will be kept up to date so keep checking back for any changes.

Finally, following new Government advice released yesterday here is a quick checklist of the best ways to stay safe and healthy.

- Wash your hands regularly but especially after coughing and sneezing
- Cover your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue when sneezing, coughing, wiping or blowing your nose - think Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!
- Wash hands with soap and water or use alcohol rub. Please do this for more than 20 seconds
- Don't share cups, cutlery without washing them in detergent first
- If you display symptoms of the virus (like a new continuous cough and/or high temperature >37.8C) should presume infection and self-isolate for 7 days.
- Those who have had an exposure to a confirmed case, or returned from travel to affected areas should self-isolate for 14 days whether they have symptoms or not. If your symptoms worsen, call 111 primary care out of hours services will be available to provide support and advice.

**Best wishes,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rokhsana Fiaz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Rokhsana Fiaz**  
**Mayor of Newham**

**People at the Heart  
of Everything We Do**