



## **UPDATE ABOUT CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19):**

### **New Tier 5 and a national lockdown from midnight tonight**

**From Mayor Fiaz  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Dear Newham Resident,

Firstly, I trust you are all well as we continue to contend with the challenge of Covid-19 as we start the New Year.

I wanted to send an initial update following the Prime Minister's announcement earlier this evening of a new 'Tier 5' Covid-19 national lockdown that comes into force from midnight tonight.

I will send a fuller update as soon as possible on the implications for council services as officers are putting in place required actions.

In the meantime, please find attached the Tier 5 Guidance issued by government following the Prime Minister's announcement (see link here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>) and top-lines are set out below, for ease:

- All primary, secondary schools and colleges will remain closed (except for the children of key workers and those designated vulnerable) until the February half-term; and all pupils will switch to remote learning;
- GCSE and A-level exams are unlikely to go ahead as planned and this is subject to a final decision from Ofqual;
- Nurseries, alternative provision and special schools will remain open and existing rules for childcare support bubbles will apply;
- University students will be expected to study online from their current residence until mid-February, though in-person teaching can take place for a limited number of critical courses, such as medicine;
- The clinically extremely vulnerable are being advised to shield as far as possible and should not go to work;
- People will only be able to leave home for work till at least the 15th February – and only if it isn't possible to work from home – and for essential food, medicine and once-a-day exercise;
- Exercise with one other person from a different household is permitted but only if they are from your immediate household or permitted support bubble, and the advice is to stay local and limit activity to once a day;

- You can't leave your home to meet socially with anyone you do not live with or are not in a support bubble with (if you are legally permitted to form one);
- Other reasons to leave home will be limited to seeking medical care, fleeing the threat of harm or providing essential care or visiting a place of worship for communal worship;
- You should follow the guidance on the safe use of places of worship and must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble when attending a place of worship;
- You can also leave home for a funeral or event related to a death, a burial ground or a remembrance garden, or to attend a wedding ceremony;
- Weddings, funerals and religious, belief-based or commemorative events linked to someone's death are all subject to limits on the numbers that can attend, and weddings and civil ceremonies may only take place in exceptional circumstances;
- All non-essential shops and hospitality will be closed if not already – though restaurants and other premises can continue delivery or takeaway but alcohol will no longer be permitted for takeaway or click and collect;
- Playgrounds, all outdoor sports venues, tennis courts and golf courses must close. Outdoor team sports will not be permitted, though professional sports, including the Premier League, may continue.

Until then, wishing you a safe period ahead, and thank you for your contribution to this collective effort.

Stay well.

Best wishes,

Rokhsana Fiaz OBE

Mayor of Newham

People at the heart of everything we do

Stay safe.