

Chief Medical Officer

Dr Gregor Smith, Interim Chief Medical Officer

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Dear Colleague

Change to Clinical Case Definition

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a change to the clinical case definition for COVID-19.

1. From Monday 18th May 2020 the UK Chief Medical Officers have updated the clinical case definition to include Anosmia (loss of normal sense of smell or taste). The new definition is now:
 - New continuous cough **OR** fever **OR** loss of / change in sense of smell or taste
2. Everyone, including health and social care workers, should self-isolate if they develop a new continuous cough or fever or loss of/ change in smell or taste.
3. The individual's household should also self-isolate for 14 days as per the current guidelines. The individual should stay at home for 7 days from the onset of their symptoms **and** until they no longer have a fever.
4. [Guidance](#) issued by Public Health Scotland will be updated to reflect this change to the case definition. Public facing information is available through [NHS Inform](#).

Yours sincerely

DR GREGOR SMITH

Interim Chief Medical Officer

**From the Interim Chief
Medical Officer
Dr Gregor Smith**

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For action

Chief Executives NHS Boards
Medical Directors NHS Boards
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