

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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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Date: 18 May 2020

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**For action**

Chief Executives NHS Boards  
Medical Directors NHS Boards  
Directors of Public Health  
Nurse Directors  
Directors of Dentistry  
NHS Boards Primary Care  
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Scottish Ambulance Service  
NHS 24  
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