



CEM/CMO/2020/023

18 May 2020

Alert for all clinical staff: COVID-19 General Case Definition Change

Dear Colleagues

From today the general clinical case definition for COVID-19 has been updated to include loss of or change in smell or taste. It is now:

New continuous cough **OR** fever **OR** loss of/ change in smell or taste

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.

The individual's household should also self-isolate for 14 days as per the current guidelines and the individual should stay at home for 7 days, or longer if they still have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell or taste.

Thank you for your ongoing work in this pandemic

Dr Frank Atherton
Chief Medical Officer
Wales

Dr Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer
Northern Ireland

Dr Gregor Smith
Chief Medical Officer
Scotland

Professor Chris Whitty
Chief Medical Officer
England