



Statement from the Four UK Chief Medical Officers

Date published: 18 May 2020

Statement from the four UK Chief Medical Officers on an update to Coronavirus symptoms.

“From today, all individuals should self-isolate if they develop a new continuous cough or fever or anosmia.

“Anosmia is the loss or a change in your normal sense of smell. It can also affect your sense of taste as the two are closely linked.



“We have been closely monitoring the emerging data and evidence on COVID-19 and after thorough consideration, we are now confident enough to recommend this new measure.

“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.”

Chief Medical Officer for Wales, Dr Frank Atherton

Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland, Dr Michael McBride

Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, Dr Gregor Smith

Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Chris Whitty

Further information

Changes for the symptomatic individual and their household:

- Individuals will need to self-isolate immediately if they develop a new continuous cough OR fever OR as of today, a loss or changed sense of normal smell or taste (Anosmia).
- All members of their household must also self-isolate according to current guidelines, unless the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result.

Notes to editors:

1. For media enquiries please contact DoH Press Office by email: pressoffice@health-ni.gov.uk (<mailto:pressoffice@health-ni.gov.uk>). Out of hours please contact the Duty Press Officer on 028 9037 8110.
2. Follow us on twitter [@healthdpt](https://twitter.com/healthdpt) (<https://twitter.com/healthdpt>).

Share this page

[\(/#facebook\)](#)

[\(/#twitter\)](#)

Latest news

- [Protect yourself from winter viruses](/news/protect-yourself-winter-viruses) (</news/protect-yourself-winter-viruses>)
12 January 2023
- [Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) Infection Survey, Northern Ireland: weekly report](/news/coronavirus-covid-19-infection-survey-northern-ireland-weekly-report-49) (</news/coronavirus-covid-19-infection-survey-northern-ireland-weekly-report-49>)
06 January 2023
- [DoH comment on COVID-19 infection levels](/news/doh-comment-covid-19-infection-levels) (</news/doh-comment-covid-19-infection-levels>)
06 January 2023
- [Publication of Northern Ireland Cancer Waiting Times Statistics Release \(July – September 2022\)](/news/publication-northern-ireland-cancer-waiting-times-statistics-release-july-september-2022) (</news/publication-northern-ireland-cancer-waiting-times-statistics-release-july-september-2022>)
05 January 2023

[More news ... \(/news\)](/news)