

**SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY**

To: GP practices involved in the pilot

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Web Site : [www.hscboard.hscni.net](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net)

13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Colleague,

**ACUTE COUGH ASSESSMENT SERVICE (CRP testing pilot) –  
CESSATION OF SERVICE**

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the Acute Cough Assessment Service (CRP testing pilot) will cease to operate with immediate effect from **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020**.

This decision has been made in light of the revised case definition of Covid-19 as published by Public Health England<sup>1</sup>.

“Clinical criteria

- acute respiratory infection of any degree of severity, including at least one of shortness of breath (difficult breathing in children) or cough (with or without fever)
- or
- fever with no other symptoms”

Patients with these symptoms are being advised not to attend pharmacies. Please do not refer any patients to community pharmacies for assessment of symptoms or CRP testing.

All promotional material relating to the service, including information on websites and social media should be removed.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-initial-investigation-of-possible-cases/investigation-and-initial-clinical-management-of-possible-cases-of-wuhan-novel-coronavirus-wn-cov-infection#criteria>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Brogan', written in a cursive style.

**Joe Brogan**  
**Assistant Director of Integrated Care**  
**Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management**

CC. OOHs

