

**SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY**

To: Community Pharmacy Contractors  
contracted to provide the service

Tel : 028 9536 3375  
Fax : 028 9536 1166  
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 13th 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.

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.

Yours sincerely,



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

---

<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>