



Diagnostic Testing for COVID-19

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Diagnostic tests for detecting infection with corona virus are considered useful in defining patients who experienced the clinical symptoms for COVID-19. More than 20 molecular tests are now available for detecting the genetic material of the virus. The other side for using diagnostic tests is to enable health measures like quarantine to be achieved.

For molecular diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2 which is the virus causing COVID-19, the following specimens should be collected:

- Upper respiratory tract specimens: Nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs.
- Lower respiratory tract specimens: Sputum for patients with productive coughs.
- For admitted patients, collect blood samples. All samples taken in clinics that have no laboratories, must be packaged and sent to a central laboratory has reagents and devices to perform testing for detecting COVID-19.

Test results could be determined as follow:

- Positive: Confirmed COVID-19 infection.
- Negative: May indicates that this patient has no infection or the testing procedures were performed early in presence of accompanying symptoms of the disease. In this situation, there will be a need for re-testing the patient again [1].

Bibliography

1. COVID-19: safe handling and processing for samples in laboratories.

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