



الهيئة الوطنية لتنظيم المهن والخدمات الصحية
NATIONAL HEALTH REGULATORY AUTHORITY

مكتب الرئيس التنفيذي
Chief Executive Office



Date: 13 December 2020

Circular No. (51) for year 2020

To all Government and Private Healthcare Facilities

Subject: Utilizing Nasal/NPS Rapid Antigen Testing in Private Sector

NHRA announces the approval of Nasal/NPS Rapid antigen testing in healthcare facilities. You are requested to follow the attached National Taskforce Medical guidelines for test utilization and interpretation.

Please note that the RT-PCR remains the standard test to make a diagnosis & confirm COVID 19. The antigen tests must not be used as initial tests for contact tracing or pre-travel testing.

Any positive rapid antigen test must be confirmed by Rt PCR.

Facilities may purchase the test from the BDF store by ordering through the following E-mails:

sarah.mansoor@bdfmedical.org

reena.biju@bdfmedical.org

Your cooperation is highly appreciated in improving health services in the Kingdom.

Dr. Mariam Athbi AL -Jalahma
Chief Executive Officer



الحملة الوطنية
لمكافحة
فيروس كورونا
(COVID-19)

Principles of Nasal /NPS Rapid Antigen Testing in Private

Approved by the National Taskforce For Combating COVID-19 (NTCC-19)

Principles of Nasal/NPS Rapid Antigen Testing in Private

- 1) **Objective:** To ensure the safety of the Patients and HCWs through early detection of the infection. This method will allow quicker admissions, better bed utilization, improved patient satisfaction, and is less costly
- 2) **Disclaimer:** RT-PCR remain the standard test to make a diagnosis & confirm COVID 19. Antigen tests must not be used as initial tests for contact tracing. Please refer to the national Taskforce Medical Guidelines. Any positive antigen test must be confirmed by PCR
- 3) **Testing Criteria:** Please follow recommendations on Page 2
 - 1) Elective admission
 - 2) Elective low risk procedures
 - 3) Day case procedures
 - 4) Stable symptomatic patients in clinics
 - 5) Testing for relatives who wish to stay with admitted patients
- 4) **Interpretation of results** : refer to page 4 &5
- 5) **Disposal of Waste:** Please follow the Ministry of Health protocol for the disposal of waste as published in the Home Isolation Protocol. (Dispose of the used Antigen tests within a separate yellow bag, and ensure the waste is not added to the general school waste until 72 hours have passed after that period has passed it can be disposed as normal waste). [https://www.moh.gov.bh/Content/Upload/File/637270366639882939-\[EN\]-COVID-19---Home-isolation-procedures-and-guidelines.pdf](https://www.moh.gov.bh/Content/Upload/File/637270366639882939-[EN]-COVID-19---Home-isolation-procedures-and-guidelines.pdf)

Recommendations

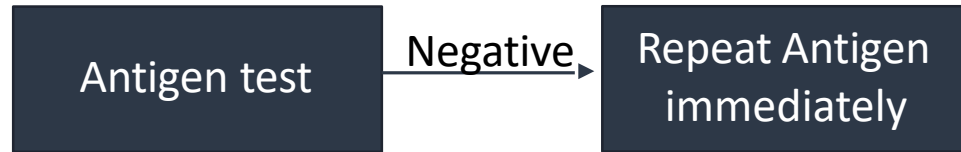
Cases which poses high risk and are planned for admission should be tested using PCR and these include the following

1. All clinically Sick **suspected COVID-19** (including pneumonia or any COVID19 like presentation)

2. **High Risk Admission Groups**
 - Immunosuppressed or undergoing active chemotherapy
 - Transplant within last 6 months and actively on immunosuppressed medications
 - Patients undergoing **aerosol-generating surgical or non-surgical procedures**
 - Surgical procedures like ENT surgery, dental procedures;
 - Non-surgical interventions like bronchoscopy, upper GI endoscopy

Guidelines

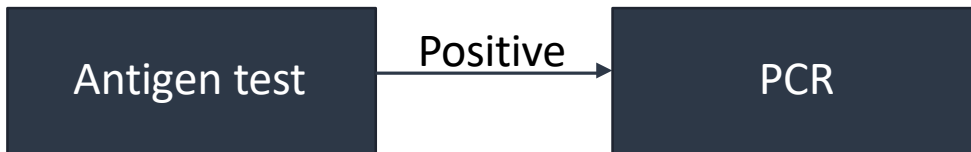
- For Symptomatic individuals:



If negative, **stop & reassess** *

If positive proceed to PCR + Call 444

- if PCR negative*, patient is advised to be assessed by a physician



If PCR positive, case is confirmed

if PCR negative, repeat antigen test after 24hr and follow result

***High pre-test probability for SARS CoV2 infection: known contact , very symptomatic , high community transmission) should do Rt PCR and advised to be assessed by physician.**

Guidelines

- For Asymptomatic individuals/ No known history of contact:

