Why is testing for SARS-CoV-2 important?

Test should be reliable, accurate, affordable, accessible and provide results rapidly*  

Results of testing are important for a number of reasons:

- Enables individuals to know if they are infected
- Prevents transmission by empowering individuals to protect their families and communities
- Ensures appropriate clinical care and support to individuals
- Enables a better understanding of where the virus is circulating to inform the COVID-19 response

Examples of where testing can be done:

- Health care facilities, clinics, health centers, and pharmacies
- Community-based testing sites, such as walk-through or drive-through centers, through outreach
- Specific settings, including to protect vulnerable populations, in closed communities, as part of sentinel surveillance, etc.
- At home

* National programs may choose to implement and adjust testing strategies based on local epidemiology, capacities and overall goals.