Use of antigen-detection rapid diagnostic testing

WHO recommends that all suspected cases be tested for SARS-CoV-2

Antigen-detection rapid diagnostic tests (Ag-RDT), with adequate performance (≥80% sensitivity and ≥97 specificity compared to a NAAT reference assay) are easy to use, can rapidly detect SARS-CoV-2 infection and do not require laboratory infrastructure.

**HOW, WHEN, WHERE:**
Ag-RDTs are used to detect acute SARS-CoV-2 infection and are best used for:

1. **CASE FINDING**
   As a primary case-detection tool for testing all suspected cases.
   Can be used to detect SARS-CoV-2 in many settings including in health facilities, testing centers, care homes, prisons, schools, communities where there is ongoing transmission.

2. **CONTACT TRACING**
   To identify infection among asymptomatic contacts of cases [1]

3. **OUTBREAK INVESTIGATIONS**
   To confirm suspected outbreaks of COVID-19 among symptomatic individuals, especially in closed or semi-closed settings including schools, care-homes, cruise ships, prisons, work-places and dormitories, etc

4. **MONITOR TRENDS**
   To monitor trends in disease incidence in communities, and particularly among frequently exposed workers, including health and care workers, irrespective of symptoms.

*Trained individuals can carry out Ag-RDT testing. WHO training materials can be found here: https://extranet.who.int/goarn/sars-cov-2-antigen-rapid-diagnostic-test-training-package

1 Ag-RDTs can be used to test asymptomatic contacts of confirmed cases, even if the Ag-RDT is not specifically authorized for this use.