



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR HEALTH

Addendum: COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Testing Interim Guide: KENYA
January, 2021

The Ministry of Health developed guidelines for the use of Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDTs) for the diagnosis of COVID-19 in December, 2020. The National Laboratory Advisory Committee (NLAC) advised that a positive test in both high and low prevalence would be treated as positive, a negative test would be considered a negative test while a negative test result in a person who presented with symptoms of COVID-19 would get a repeat test using RT PCR.

The World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines recommend that a positive test in a low prevalence setting could be a false positive resulting in over reporting of cases. This addendum recognizes that RT PCR is the Gold standard for COVID-19 testing and is intended to provide guidance on how to manage persons who return a negative antigen rapid test in low prevalence setting.

The revision targets section 9 page 11 (low prevalence settings). The low prevalence settings will include:

- a. Arriving passengers at the points of entry for
 - i. If they have symptoms of COVID-19 or
 - ii. Whose COVID-19 certificates have expired
- b. Patients tested for COVID-19 before surgical procedures
- c. Screening of patients at the hospital settings
- d. Persons in the following special populations such as
 - i. Street families with symptoms or contact with a confirmed case
 - ii. Homes for the elderly
 - iii. Homes for vulnerable children
- e. Surveillance – Antigen rapid test will be used based on program needs. In this population, a negative test result does not eliminate the possibility COVID-19 infection.



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The revision also adds the following phrase to Section 13 page 13 (Reporting on a positive case/interpretation of a test): In low COVID-19 prevalence settings, the rapid antigen tests will have a high Negative Predictive Value (NPV) but a low Positive Predictive Value (PPV). A positive test will in these settings therefore require a RT PCR test to confirm positivity. A person with a positive Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test should be isolated or put on home based care based on disease severity while awaiting RT PCR test result.



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