



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



20 FEBRUARY 2021

FDA ADVISORY
No. 2021-0284

TO: ALL CONCERNED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

SUBJECT: Clarification on RT-PCR Testing for COVID-19 using Saliva as Sample by the Philippine Red Cross versus Saliva Antigen Tests

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) informs all healthcare professionals and the general public that the saliva antigen test kit approved by the FDA is not an RT-PCR test kit. It is a rapid antigen-based test kit and its utility and accuracy are not the same as an RT-PCR test.

RT-PCR based testing is the gold standard for COVID-19 testing and the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) is the only laboratory accredited by the Department of Health to use saliva as a sample for RT-PCR testing.

Please be reminded that the two tests are not equivalent and results are not interchangeable. The administration and use of these tests should be done by trained health professionals.

Dissemination of this advisory to all concerned is hereby requested.


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