



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION**



19 FEB 2021

FDA ADVISORY  
No. 2021-0284

**TO: ALL CONCERNED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

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

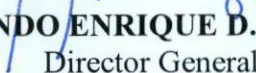
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) informs all healthcare professionals and the general public that the saliva antigen test kit approved by the FDA is not the same as the test kit used by the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) in their RT-PCR testing using saliva as a sample.

As the two categories of test kits stated are FDA approved, the saliva-specific test kit with special certification from FDA is a **rapid antigen-based test kit**.

On the other hand, the test kit utilized by the PRC is an **RT-PCR based test kit**.

With these products having varying specifications, it is important to be reminded that administration and use of these kits should be done by trained health professionals.

Dissemination of this advisory to all concerned is hereby requested.

  
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