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An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

Rapid HTA

To assess alternative diagnostic approaches for the detection of SARS-CoV-2.

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www.hiqa.ie



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Rapid HTA

Pathogen detection tests



Detection of active infection early in the clinical course of infection.

Rapid HTA

Real time RT-PCR



High sensitivity and specificity



Current reference standard for diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2



Long turnaround times



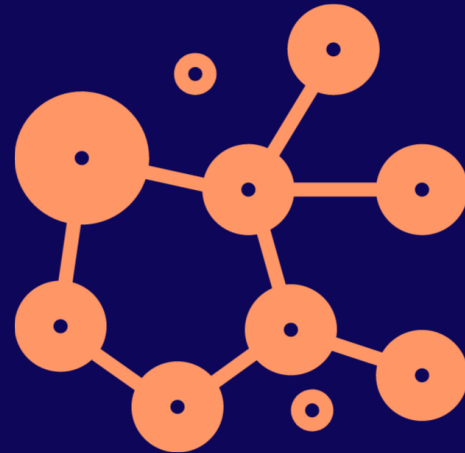
Newer test kits have the potential to :

- **leverage off existing platforms already in use in laboratories**
- **have shorter turnaround times**
- **alleviate pressure on laboratories**
- **accelerate clinical decision-making**

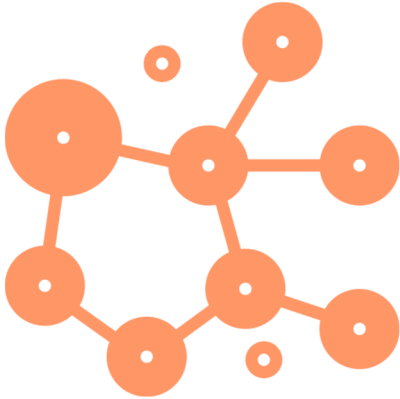
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Antigen detection tests



Antigen detection tests



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**Faster turnaround time
compared to RT-PCR**



**Performance data is not yet
available for CE-marked
devices**

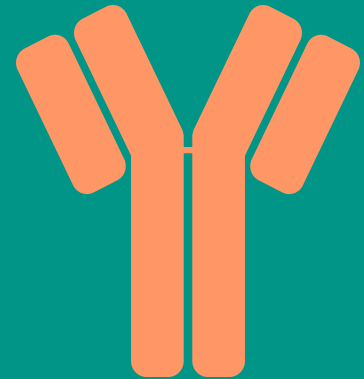


**WHO advises use in research
only until more evidence is
available**



**Could be used to supplement
current lab-based RT-PCR
case detection**

Detection of the host immune response



Antibody testing is limited to later in the clinical course of infection after the host has mounted an immune response.

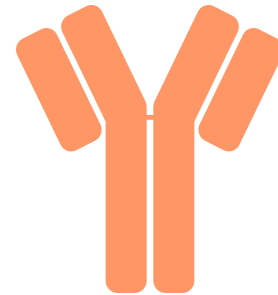
Antibody testing



**Assess population level
immunity**



**Could inform modelling of the
course of the pandemic and
public health response**



**But there are knowledge
gaps:**

- **duration of immunity
and if re-infection can
occur**
- **potential for cross-
reactivity with other
respiratory pathogens**
- **extent of immunity in
the Irish population**

Quality assurance



Ongoing and dynamic monitoring of SARS-CoV-2 testing is needed to ensure timely and accurate results.

Quality assurance

- ✓ Independent clinical validation of tests
- ✓ Local verification
- ✓ Ongoing quality assurance programme



Planning now to support rapid deployment of tests that meet the standards once available and validated for use.



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thank you!

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