



Rapid Testing Kit Methods for Diagnosis of COVID-19

Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) does not allow any Rapid Testing Kit or use of immunoassays for diagnosis of COVID-19. The Corona Experts Advisory Group (CEAG) after considering the Laboratory Testing Recommendations for COVID-19 Serology Based Assays conveyed by the National Institute of Health (NIH) has advised that only Laboratory based serology tests (ELISA) that are CE marked /FDA approved should be allowed strictly in few clinical indications for supplementing the diagnostic yield in COVID-19 as under, in Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) approved public and private sector laboratories:

1. A patient who is clinically COVID but more than one PCR tests have been negative, may benefit from IgG/IgM testing
2. There have been reports of Kawasaki like syndromes in children where at the time of onset of symptoms, PCR test has already been negative, IgG estimation in these cases help in diagnosis
3. Since plasma transfusion has been approved as investigational treatment, therefore potential donors will require IgG estimation which would be the definitive indication for Serological Testing
4. In research proposal approved by the CEAG

Some of the organizations like “Find My Doctor (FMD)” are advertising rapid kit test methods for diagnosis of COVID-19, which is a clear violation of the notification of Government of the Punjab and PHC instruction and are liable to be taken strict legal action as per PHC Act against them, which may lead to sealing of the premises.

PHC has also instructed the Deputy Commissioners of the Province of Punjab to depute officers, to visit and report such premises operating in defiance of the above mentioned instructions and seal their premises.