

Gathering and testing samples to determine whether a person has COVID-19 is a multi-step process. Throughout the Eastern Mediterranean Region, WHO is training health workers, supplying testing kits and ensuring laboratories have what they need to make accurate analyses.

Click through this photo gallery to follow a COVID-19 sample from patient to laboratory to final confirmation.

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In Pakistan, community health workers fan out in cities and small villages to test people suspected of having COVID-19. WHO helps governments train their teams so they know how to collect a sample safely and document who may be sick where. 2 / 8



Health workers take a swab to send for testing in a laboratory. WHO has supplied kits to test hundreds of thousands of people across the Region. 3 / 8



In Pakistan, WHO-supported polio teams are transferring their longstanding expertise in community health work to detect COVID-19 cases. Here, a COVID-19 team member labels a sample to be tested. 4 / 8



In Iraq, a team of university scientists are locally producing viral transport medium, a substance which ensures that swab samples are properly preserved on the way to the laboratory. 5 / 8

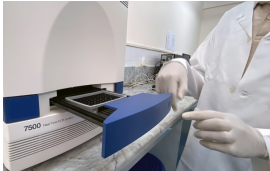


In some cases, teams go door to door to collect samples. In other cases, people come to

designated health facilities to be tested for COVID-19. Health workers at such sites may take extra precautions to avoid infections, as with this primary health care centre in the Islamic Republic of Iran. 6 / 8



A critical step before final analysis is extracting genetic material from a sample. This machine at a laboratory in Jordan enables automated extraction by processing dozens of samples at a time. 7 / 8



The final step in the testing process requires a PCR machine, which detects whether a sample contains the nucleic acid of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. WHO has given PCR machines to many laboratories in the Region, such as this laboratory in Yemen. 8 / 8



Hundreds of thousands of people have been tested for COVID-19 thanks to WHO support. WHO has also equipped health facilities with essential medical supplies, including oxygen for patients like this man in a COVID-19 isolation centre in Somalia. □ □ Thursday 16th of May 2024 07:36:12 AM