respiratory syncytial virus, rhinovirus, human

metapneumovirus and SARS coronavirus. It is

advisable to distinguish COVID-19 from other

pneumonias such as mycoplasma pneumonia,

chlamydia pneumonia and bacterial

pneumonia.\*? Several published pieces of

literature based on the novel coronavirus

reported in China declared that stool and blood

samples can also collected from the suspected

persons in order to detect the virus. However,

respiratory samples show better viability in

identifying the virus, in comparison with the

other specimens.\*\*"°°

6.2 Nucleic acid amplification tests

(NAAT) for COVID-19 virus

The gold standard method of confirming the

suspected cases of COVID-19 is carried out by

detecting the unique sequences of virus RNA

through reverse transcription polymerase chain

reaction (RT-PCR) along with nucleic acid

sequencing if needed. The various genes of

virus identified so far include N, E, S (N:

nucleocapsid protein, E: envelope protein gene,

S: spike protein gene) and RdRP genes (RNA-

dependent RNA polymerase gene).°7