6.1 Laboratory testing for

coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-

19) in suspected human cases

The assessment of the patients with COVID-19

should be based on the clinical features and

also epidemiological factors. The screening

protocols must be prepared and followed per

the native context.\*' Collecting and testing of

specimen samples from the suspected

individual is considered to be one of the main

principles for controlling and managing the

outbreak of the disease in a country. The

suspected cases must be screened thoroughly

in order to detect the virus with the help of

nucleic acid amplification tests such as reverse

transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-

PCR). If a country or a particular region does not

have the facility to test the specimens, the

specimens of the suspected individual should

be sent to the nearest reference laboratories

per the list provided by WHO.°\*

It is also recommended that the suspected

patients be tested for the other respiratory

pathogens by performing the routine laboratory

investigation per the local guidelines, mainly to

differentiate from other viruses that include

influenza virus, parainfluenza virus, adenovirus,

respiratory syncytial virus, rhinovirus, human