

DIAGNOSIS OF SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)

RNA tests can confirm the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) cases with real-time RT-PCR or next-generation sequencing (148, 149, 245, 246). At present, nucleic acid detection techniques, like RTPCR, are considered an effective method for confirming the diagnosis in clinical cases of COVID-19 (148). Several companies across the world are currently focusing on developing and marketing SARS-CoV-2-specific nucleic acid detection kits. Multiple laboratories are also developing their own in-house RT-PCR. One of them is the SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid detection kit produced by Shoushi Biotechnology (double fluorescence PCR method) (150). Up to 30 March 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had granted 22 in vitro diagnostics Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs), including for the RT-PCR diagnostic panel for the universal detection of SARS-like coronaviruses and specific detection of SARS-CoV-2, developed by the U.S. CDC (Table 1) (258, 259).