

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.³¹ 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.³²

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