

Covid-19 Testing Methods Bulletin No 8 – 29 June 2020

Dear Colleague

There have been further contributions with potential shared on the Testing Methods [crowdsourcing platform](#), and so we are pleased to share a further two. These cover our challenges on multiplexing and transport media.

We hope these add value in supporting your work to increase and maintain testing capacity.

Thank you for your help,

Sue Hill
Chief Scientific Officer, NHS England

Jo Martin
President, Royal College of Pathologists

On behalf of the moderators' group.

NEW SOLUTIONS: COVID Plus: Multiplexing with other pathogens



As we move towards the winter flu season, we must consider how to include COVID 19 viral detection into wider testing regimes.

We asked for testing kits that will deliver multiplexed or syndromic respiratory and / or gastrointestinal viral detection and that will operate on either existing rapid turnaround laboratory platforms, existing near patient care platforms or new technologies that can be deployed into NHS and PHE testing laboratories within 4-6 weeks.

1. [Genetic Signatures Automated EasyScreen Assays](#)

NEW SOLUTIONS: Transport media that inactivates the virus



In order to increase laboratory throughput we are looking at ways to minimise processes including the need to handle test samples in Category 2+/3 facilities. We are looking for transport media solutions that inactivate the virus reliably or do not add significant steps to the laboratory process or impact on viral detection.

2. ["Virus PCR solution" sent without the swab to the testing laboratory](#)