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# MAY 20, 2020 COVID-19 Testing: What are We Doing? What Does it Mean?



Print

## Guest Editorial, Dr. Sherri Tenpenny, DO, AOBNMM, ABIHM

[CHD NOTE: The original article, in its entirety, can be found at *Vaxxter.com*]

In 1965, scientists identified the first human coronavirus; it was associated with the common cold. The Coronavirus family, named

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As the news of deaths in China, South Korea, Italy, and Iran began to saturate every form of media 24/7, we became familiar with a

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January 31, 2020, then on February 2 placed a ban on the entry of most travelers who had recently been in China. On February 4, Alex Azar, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a declaration of public health emergency and activated the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, otherwise known as the PREP Act. This nefarious legislation provides complete protection of manufacturers from liability for all products, technologies, biologics, or any vaccine developed as a medical countermeasure against COVID-19. For those nervously waiting for the vaccine to become available, be sure to understand the PREP Act before rushing to the get in line.

Calls for testing – to see if a person is or isn't infected – began soon after the emergency was declared, but performing those tests was initially slow due to an inadequate number of test kits. As the kits became available, those developed by the CDC had a defect: The reagents reacted to the negative control sample, making the test inaccurate and the kits unusable.

In various countries, thousands of test kits purchased from China were found to be contaminated with the SARS-CoV-2 viruses. No one really knows how that happened, but theories spread like wildfire. Could the test kit infect the person being tested? Or, did it mean the test would return a false-positive result, driving up the numbers of those said to be infected so those in power could implement stronger lockdowns and accelerate the hockey-stick unemployment rates? Neither of those questions has been adequately answered.

## Are these reasons sufficient to give up our health freedom and our personal rights, being tested and shamed in public? Mandatory Testing...of what?

Authorities claim that testing is important for public health officials to assess if their mitigation efforts – "shelter in place" and "social distancing" and "wearing a mask" – are making a difference to "flatten the curve." Officials also claim that testing is necessary

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Despite the challenges with test kits, testing began. By the end of March 2020, more than 1 million people had been tested across

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becoming ever more onerous. In Washington state, Governor Inslee has declared:

Individuals that refuse to cooperate with contact tracers and/or refuse testing, those individuals will not be allowed to leave their homes to purchase basic necessities such as groceries and/or prescriptions. Those persons will need to make arrangements through friends, family, or state provided 'family support' personnel.

But what do the results really mean?

# Who Should Be Tested

On May 8, 2020, the CDC has listed specific priorities for when testing should be done. As of May 16, more than 11-million samples have been collected and more than 3700 specimens have not yet been evaluated.

# **High Priority**

- Hospitalized patients with symptoms
- Healthcare facility workers, workers in living settings, and first responders with symptoms
- Residents in long-term care facilities or other congregate living settings, including prisons and shelters, with symptoms

# Priority

 Persons with symptoms of potential COVID-19 infection, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting or diarrhea, and/or sore throat

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PCR, short for polymerase chain reaction, is a highly specific laboratory technique. The key to <u>understanding PCR testing</u> is that PCR can identify an individual specific virus within a viral family.

However, a PCR test can only be used to identify DNA viruses; the SARS-CoV2 virus is an RNA virus. Therefore, multiple steps must be taken to "magnify" the amount of genetic material in the specimen. Researchers used a method called RT-PCR, reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction, to specifically identify the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It's a complicated process. To read more about it, go here and here.

If a nasal or a blood sample contains a tiny snip of RNA from the SARS-CoV-2 virus, RT-PCR can identify it, leading to a high probability that the person has been *exposed* to the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

However – and this is important – a *positive RT-PCR test result does not necessarily indicate a full virus is present*. The virus must be fully intact to be transmitted and cause illness.

## And what makes this testing even more confusing is that the FDA admits that "The detection of viral RNA by RT-PCR does not necessarily equate with an infectious virus. RT-PCR Testing: The Importance of

# Timing

Even if a person has had all the symptoms associated with a coronavirus infection or has been closely exposed to persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, the probability of a RT-PCR test being positive decreases with the number of days past the onset of symptoms.

According to a study done by Paul Wikramaratna and others:

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lead to even more confusing results: The test may go from negative, to positive, then back to negative again as the immune system clears out the coronavirus infection and moves to recovery.

And what makes this testing even more confusing is that the FDA admits that "The detection of viral RNA by RT-PCR does not necessarily equate with an infectious virus."

Let's break that down:

You've had all the symptoms of COVID19, but your RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 is negative.

- Does that mean you're "good to go" you can go to work, go to school or you can travel? OR...
- Does that mean your influenza-like illness was caused by some other pathogen, possibly one of the four coronaviruses that have been in circulation for 60 years? OR...
- Does that mean the result is a false-negative and you still have the infection, but it isn't detectable by current tests? OR...
- Does that mean it was a sample that was inadequately taken due to the faulty technique by the technician? OR...
- Does that mean you have not been exposed, and you are susceptible to contracting the infection, and you need to stay in quarantine?

So, what does a "positive" test actually mean? And that's the problem ... No one knows for sure.

# Another Type of Testing: Antibodies

## According to the nonprofit Foundation for Innovative New

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same as a nome pregnancy test or a glucometer to test your blood sugar. The blood spot or saliva specimen can be collected

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infection. The IgM levels diminish quickly as the infection resolves. The FDA admits they do not know how long the IgM remains present for SARS-CoV-2 as the infection is being cleared.

The interpretation of an IgG antibody is more difficult. This antibody is an indicator of a past infection. The test is often not specific enough to determine if the past infection was caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus or one of the four common coronaviruses that cause influenza-like illness.

#### The FDA says:

Because serology testing can yield a negative test result even if the patient is actively infected (e.g., the body has not yet developed in response to the virus) or may be falsely positive (e.g., if the antibody indicates a past infection by a different coronavirus), this type of testing should not be used to diagnose an acute or active COVID-19 infection.

Similarly, the CDC says the following regarding antibody testing:

#### If you test positive:

- A positive test result shows you have antibodies as a result of an infection with SARS-CoV-2, or *possibly a related coronavirus*.
- It's unclear if those antibodies can provide protection (immunity) against getting infected again. This means that we do not know at this time if antibodies make you immune to the virus.
- If you have no symptoms, you likely do not have an active infection and no additional follow-up is needed.
- It's possible you might test positive for antibodies and you

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some people may not develop antibodies.

• An antibody test cannot tell if you are currently sick with COVID-19.

#### If the FDA does not know if an IgG antibody to SARS-CoV-2 after recovering from the infection is protective against a future infection, then they certainly don't know if an antibody caused by a vaccine will prevent infection either. What? Wait!

- Doesn't the vaccine industry call the IgG a "protective antibody"?
- Isn't this the marker of immunity they assess after you've had an infection with measles or chickenpox or mumps to determine if you are immune to future infections?
- Isn't this the marker of induced immunity they are trying to achieve by administering a vaccine?

If the FDA does not know if an IgG antibody to SARS-CoV-2 after recovering from the infection is protective against a future infection, then they certainly don't know if an antibody caused by a vaccine will prevent infection either.

Doesn't this completely eliminate the theory that antibodies afford protection and antibodies from vaccines are necessary to keep you from getting sick?

# Mandatory Testing – New Job Creation

Illinois U.S. Rep. Bobby L. Rush introduced the H.R. 6666 TRACE Act on May 1. On his website, Rush said,

Until we have a vaccine to defeat this dreaded disease, contact tracing in order to understand the full breadth and

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grants to **eligible entities** to conduct diagnostic testing and then to trace and monitor the contacts of infected individuals. The

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of entity" the secretary of HHS wants to use.

The bill would allocate \$100 billion in 2020 "and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021 and any subsequent fiscal year during which the emergency period continues."

But what are they looking for?

- Is your test *supposed* to be **positive** saying you've been exposed and you've possibly recovered?
- Or is your test *supposed* to be **negative**, meaning, you are healthy?
- Or does a completely negative test negative RT-PCR test and no IgG antibody mean you're susceptible to infection and you need to stay in quarantine?

The virus is rapidly mutating, which is rather typical of RNA viruses. In a study published in April 2020, researchers have discovered that the novel coronavirus has mutated into at least 30 different genetic variations. If your RT-PCR test is positive, does this identify exposure to the pandemic virus or exposure to one of the genetic variations? The same can be said about the vaccines under development: With each mutation, is the vaccine more likely to be all risk and no benefit when it reaches the market?

# What You Can Do

Across the nation, police are being told to not apprehend criminals but instead, to arrest parents at playgrounds, to arrest lone surfers on public beaches, to fine ministers and congregation members sitting in their cars listening to a service on the radio, and to restrict movement by creating one-way sidewalks.

People have had enough. They are beginning to see the huge scam that has been perpetrated on the entire world over a viral

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• In Virginia, people went to the beaches en mass, ignoring social distancing and the orders of the Governor to stay home.

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people are voung with their reet. Retired neurosurgeon, Dr. Russell Blaylock, warns that not only do face masks fail to protect healthy people from contracting an illness, but they create serious health risks to the wearer.

Be brave. Be bold. It's time for Americans to resist the tyranny that seems to be upon us.

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