



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**Eastern Visayas**  
Center for Health Development



May 20, 2020

**COVID-19 ADVISORY NO. 017**

**TO: ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT HEALTH FACILITIES  
CONDUCTING RISK BASED TESTING**


**SUBJECT: Reiteration on the Responsible Use of COVID-19 Rapid Antibody-based  
Test Kits**

**Care must be exercised in order to avoid misinterpretation of the test results and unnecessary public panic.** The RT-PCR testing remains the standard for diagnosing COVID-19 and that COVID-19 antibody-based test kits cannot be used as standalone tests to diagnose COVID-19 (*DOH Memorandum Circular No. 2020-0151 and DOH Circular No. 2020-0160*). Because deployment of antibody-based test to population may undermine public health response, thus, LGUs who opt to deploy such technologies shall be responsible for ensuring measures are in place to prevent such risks.

In view of the foregoing, the LGUs who opt to conduct expanded testing procedures for COVID-19 in their respective unit using rapid antibody-based testing kits are hereby advised:

1. to observe existing guidelines on the use of COVID-19 rapid antibody-based test kits, and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations;
2. to ensure measures in the proper interpretation of results, which includes the participation in all instances by the health experts, together with Counseling Team. The interpretation of test result shall be made by licensed medical professionals; and
3. that the rapid antibody-based test may be used after 14 days Home/Community quarantine to identify the presence of antibody (IgG+) to determine immune response from a previous infection (COVID-19) as one of the basis for clearing from quarantine and readiness for family/community reintegration.

For dissemination to all concerned.

  
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