F.1-18 (Gen)/2020 NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH

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National Focal Point for International Health Regulations

March 2020

Subject: Testing recommendations for Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19)

It has been brought to the notice of National Institute of Health that a number of rapid diagnostics and serological tests are being carried out for detection of suspected COVID-19 cases. The sensitivity and specificity of such newly marketed tests have not been evaluated and otherwise never up to standard. Therefore, this Institute does not recommend any such immunochrmatographic or serological rapid screening tests for diagnosis of COVID-19 infections. The NIH recommends only PCR based testing for the detection of SARS, COV-2.

2. Accordingly, all the public/ private laboratories/ health-care facilities under your control are strictly advised to refrain from carrying out such testing as false negative test can lead to local transmission, which may result in a large scale outbreak.

Prof. Dr. Aamer Ikram, SI(M)

Executive Director

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- xiii. SPS to SAPM/ Minister of State, M/o NHSR&C, Islamabad
- xiv. SPS to Secretary, M/o NHSR&C, Islamabad
- xv. WHO Representative in Pakistan