

Circular No. (11) 2021

Date: 18 May 2021

To All Private Healthcare Facilities Conducting PCR Testing

Sub: Reducing the Risk of False Positives RT-PCR

The NHRA announces to all private health care facilities conducting PCR COVID-19 tests in their laboratories, to follow the national Protocol to Reduce the Risk of False Positives RT-PCR and overcome possible contamination with PCR and due to large daily volume for the samples. The following should be implemented:

1. Increase the awareness among samples handlers to avoid mislabeling.
2. Clean all equipment using 70% alcohol before and after processing any samples.
3. Assure proper training to all lab technicians and provide comprehensive training to new employees and volunteers.
4. Apply daily internal positive and negative control which is subjected to all PCR process from extraction to PCR.
5. Changing PPEs between different PCR rooms and gloves between patches.
6. Assure using tips with filter barrier (ART Tips).
7. Regular calibration and sterilization of pipettes and provide the necessary training on different pipetting techniques.
8. Repeating all positive results from the same sample in new run (using different kit or machine) or asking for a new sample if needed.
9. Regular decontamination of PCR machines and extractors.
10. Assure proper PCR plate celling with adhesive cover to avoid leakage from PCR mixture.
11. Using 10 % Sodium hypochlorite as disinfectant for all lab surfaces.
12. Using UV lights in biosafety cabinets on daily basis after every evening shift.

13. Conducting weekly sterility checks for all PCR machines, extractors, safety cabinet and surface by taking environmental swabs and running them through the normal PCR process.
14. Assign 1-2 employees in charge of monitoring and documenting the decontamination process.

For further information, please visit our webpage on:

<https://www.nhra.bh/Departments/HCF/>

Or contact Healthcare Facilities Section through:

HCF@nhra.bh

Your cooperation is highly appreciated in improving health services in the Kingdom.



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