National COVID-19 Testing Protocol

A. Mandatory Testing for individuals entering Bhutan

Test timing	Target	Test method	Test Result		Actions
			RT-PCR	Rapid Antibody	
Day 3-5	• All quarantined individuals	Rapid antibody test & RT-PCR	Negative	Negative	• Continue quarantine
			Negative	Positive	• Continue quarantine • Separate roommate and continue routine quarantine • Repeat RT-PCR test after 24 hrs.
			Positive	Negative/ Positive	• Shift to isolation ward/facility as per the protocol • Quarantine roommate for 21 days from the last day of contact with confirmed case (Day 0)
Day 13-14	• All quarantined individuals	Rapid antibody test & RT-PCR	Negative	Negative	• Continue quarantine
			Negative	Positive	• Repeat RT-PCR test after 24 hrs. • **Release if** o Antibody positive in Day 3-5 testing o RT-PCR negative on Day 3-5 o 24 hr. Repeat RT-PCR negative Note: *QI has 4 or more RT-PCR negative and two antibody positive results* • **Continue quarantine if** o Antibody negative in Day 3-5 testing o Separate roommate and quarantine for 14 days (Last day of Contact as Day 0)
			Positive	Negative/ Positive	• Shift to isolation ward/facility as per the protocol • Quarantine roommate for 21 days from the last day of contact with confirmed case (Day 0)
Day 21	• All individuals completing quarantine	Rapid antibody test & RT-PCR	Negative	Negative	• Discharge with health advisory
			Negative	Positive	• Repeat RT-PCR test after 24 hrs. • **Release if** o Antibody positive in Day 13-14 testing o RT-PCR negative on Day 13-14 o 24 hr. Repeat RT-PCR negative *Note: QI has 5 or more RT-PCR negative and two antibody positive results* • **Extend quarantine by 7 days if** o Antibody negative in Day 13-14 testing o Separate roommate and extend quarantine for 14 days (Last day of Contact as Day 0)
			Positive	Negative/ Positive	• Shift to isolation ward/facility as per the protocol • Quarantine roommate for 21 days from the last day of contact with confirmed case (Day 0)

B. Additional Testing for individuals entering Bhutan

Test timing	Target	Test method	Test Result		Actions
			RT-PCR	Rapid Antibody	
At the point of entry on arrival (Day 0)	• Individuals with signs & symptoms on arrival • Returning patients & attendants	Rapid antibody test & RT-PCR	Negative	Negative/ Positive	• Continue quarantine
			Positive		• Shift to isolation ward/facility as per the protocol • Quarantine roommate for 21 days from the last day of contact with confirmed case (Day 0)
Quarantine period	• Individuals who develop signs & symptoms while in quarantine • Individuals with perceived risk of exposure	RT-PCR **Note**: If RT-PCR negative for symptomatic individuals, repeat RT-PCR after 24 hrs.	Negative		• Continue quarantine
			Positive		• Shift to isolation ward/facility as per the protocol • Quarantine roommate for 21 days from the last day of contact with confirmed case (Day 0)
Apply "Mandatory Testing" protocol from the last day of contact (Day 0)	• Close contacts of confirmed case	Rapid antibody test & RT-PCR			

C. Testing for discharge from de-isolation

Test timing	Target	Test method	Test Result		Actions
			RT-PCR	Rapid Antibody**	
Day 14	• All individuals completing de-isolation	Rapid antibody test & RT-PCR	Negative	Positive	• Discharge with health advisory
			Positive	Positive	• Extend de-isolation by 7 days • RT-PCR test on Day 7

** Rapid antibody test is expected to be positive

D. Travelers from High Risk to Low Risk Areas

Test timing	Target	Test method	Test Result		Actions
			RT-PCR	Rapid antigen	
Prior to travel	• Emergency travelers	Rapid antigen & collect RT-PCR sample	NA	Negative	• Allow to travel with "Travel advisory for Emergency Travelers from High risk to low risk areas"
				Positive	• Follow "Rapid Antigen Testing Protocol"
Day 8	• Emergency travelers	RT-PCR/Rapid antigen (if RT-PCR not available)	NA	Negative	• No action required
				Positive	• Follow "Rapid Antigen Testing Protocol"
	• Routine travelers	RT-PCR	Negative		• Discharge with health advisory
			Positive		• Shift to isolation ward/facility as per the protocol

E. High risk Frontline Workers

Targets Group		Timing	Test	
			High Risk Areas	Low Risk Areas
Health workers working in hospitals	Symptomatic cases	Immediately	Immediate Rapid Antigen Test, take sample for RT-PCR	Immediate Rapid Antigen Test, take sample for RT-PCR
	All other staff	Every 14 days	RT-PCR	Rapid Antigen Test
Other frontline workers	Symptomatic cases	Immediately	Immediate Rapid Antigen Test, and take sample for RT-PCR	Immediate Rapid Antigen Test, and take sample for RT-PCR
	High risk (working in transshipment areas)	Every 7 days or work turn over (Test Everyone)	RT-PCR	NA
	Low risk (border patrolling)	Every 14 days	Rapid Antigen Test	NA
	Quarantine Duty	After Completion of quarantine duty	RT-PCR	RT-PCR
Hospital admission and patient attendants	All	On admission	Rapid Antigen Test	Rapid Antigen Test
High risk community along the borders	Risk based -randomization within clusters	Every 30-45 days	Rapid antigen Test	NA
Community Screening	Risk based -randomization within clusters	Risk based as decided by central command	RT-PCR/Rapid antigen/Rapid antibody (based on disease epidemiology)	RT-PCR/Rapid antigen/Rapid antibody (based on disease epidemiology)