



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AusDiagnostics develops test to detect the deadly coronavirus that originated in China

AusDiagnostics has developed a molecular diagnostic test to detect the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV, or Wuhan coronavirus) based on its nucleic acid sequence.

The 2019 novel coronavirus, which is transmissible between humans, has spread to 20 countries and territories worldwide, with more than 12,000 confirmed cases and 260 deaths. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a global health emergency.

The AusDiagnostics test detects the 2019 novel coronavirus together with four coronaviruses with less severe cold like symptoms and the dangerous SARS and MERS coronaviruses. This makes it a useful tool to distinguish the cause of coronavirus-like infections.

The new test works on the AusDiagnostics diagnostic equipment which is present in 40 hospital laboratories in Australia and 100 hospitals worldwide allowing rapid deployment of the test. Both the London and Sydney company sites are manufacturing the kit for interested customers.

AusDiagnostics Managing Director, Professor Keith Stanley says that the new test has been shown to work well with clinical samples of the virus and is now available to interested pathology laboratories.

“With a sensitive molecular test it is possible that the Coronavirus can be detected before symptoms are apparent in quarantined patients which could help to prevent transmission and break a possible pandemic,” says Professor Stanley.

About AusDiagnostics:

AusDiagnostics registered as an Australian company in 2006 and now employs over 50 staff across four countries. Its proprietary technology, “Multiplexed Tandem PCR”, was patented in 2005 following a START grant from the Australian Government to Corbett Research PTY Ltd. MT-PCR allows multiplexing any number of gene targets and can detect minor pathogens even in the presence of a large abundance of other pathogens. This makes it very useful for dual or multiple infections.

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