

# Statement



## **Roche statement on COVID-19 Testing**

Basel, 26 March 2020 (Update)

Roche understands the enormous global demand for novel coronavirus tests in light of the World Health Organization's pandemic declaration.

We have therefore developed the first COVID-19 high speed test in record time and have again in record time achieved approval by the regulators around the world just two weeks ago. We have further increased production and are working 24/7 to deliver as many tests as even possible.

Today, media in the Netherlands reported that Roche Netherlands is not providing enough test material to laboratories and asked Roche to publish the recipe for one reagent, called lysis buffer solution. We clearly state that this story is wrong.

We cannot confirm the shortage of Roche's lysis buffer solution as of today. There is no patent protection on lysis buffer itself. Roche will not guarantee safety and reliability of the quality and test results if the reagents required for the test are manufactured outside our own production network as well as those qualified production sites we are already working with. Safety and reliability of our components have been approved by regulatory authorities.

Fortunately more and more other companies are in the meantime also offering and delivering tests. While these tests represent a significant response to the coronavirus emergency, demand for tests (and ancillary healthcare equipment), will exceed supply for the foreseeable future. As infection rates continue to rise, all healthcare systems must develop a prioritisation strategy for medical tests, supplies and therapies, as well as a comprehensive approach to managing increased patient populations while protecting medical professionals. Our strong recommendation is: Use the available tests only for those who show clear symptoms.

Throughout the world there is intensive cooperation among industry, customers, non-profits, governments and regulatory bodies to ensure we support where we can to contain the coronavirus. On the one hand by testing those who are infected, on the other hand, by developing medicines that help COVID-19 patients.

For its part, Roche remains committed to delivering its coronavirus tests to areas where they can be immediately effective. Tests will be shipped from our production sites to locations where appropriate infrastructure is in place and testing can begin without delay.

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## About Roche

Roche is a global pioneer in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics focused on advancing science to improve people's lives. The combined strengths of pharmaceuticals and diagnostics under one roof have made Roche the leader in personalised healthcare – a strategy that aims to fit the right treatment to each patient in the best way possible.

Roche is the world's largest biotech company, with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, immunology, infectious diseases, ophthalmology and diseases of the central nervous system. Roche is also the world leader in in vitro diagnostics and tissue-based cancer diagnostics, and a frontrunner in diabetes management.

Founded in 1896, Roche continues to search for better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases and make a sustainable contribution to society. The company also aims to improve patient access to medical innovations by working with all relevant stakeholders. More than thirty medicines developed by Roche are included in the World Health Organization Model Lists of Essential Medicines, among them life-saving antibiotics, antimalarials and cancer medicines. Moreover, for the eleventh consecutive year, Roche has been recognised as one of the most sustainable companies in the Pharmaceuticals Industry by the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI).

The Roche Group, headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, is active in over 100 countries and in 2019 employed about 98,000 people worldwide. In 2019, Roche invested CHF 11.7 billion in R&D and posted sales of CHF 61.5 billion. Genentech, in the United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche is the majority shareholder in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan. For more information, please visit [www.roche.com](http://www.roche.com).

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