

## Holista Colltech secures 15,000 antigen rapid test kits, obtains MoH approval to import and distribute

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KUALA LUMPUR (June 18): Holista Colltech Ltd has secured an initial order of 15,000 units of antigen rapid test kits (RTK-AG) after securing permission from the Ministry of Health (MoH) to import and distribute the diagnostic test kit developed and manufactured by China's Guangdong Hecin Scientific Inc.

In a statement today, the natural wellness and health product specialist said the 15,000 units will be shipped by the end of this month to Klinik Mutiara, a medical consultancy that works closely with the MoH and related organisations.

"The maiden order secured by Holista's wholly-owned Holista Biotech Sdn Bhd is worth approximately A\$95,000 (US\$73,000 or about RM296,416). The kits will be used by registered professionals at Klinik Mutiara for screening purposes.

“The MoH’s Medical Device Authority (MDA) has granted Holista permission to import and distribute up to 45,000 units of the Hecin antigen test kit for emergency use within three months from the date of approval on June 14, 2021,” it said.

According to Holista, the MDA has also granted Holista similar import and distribution approval for the Hecin antibody test kit, which can test human serum, plasma or whole blood for levels of antibodies to assess immunity after vaccination.

“The clinical performance of the Hecin RTK-antigen test kit against the PCR (polymerase chain reaction) comparator method using nasopharyngeal swab specimens obtained a sensitivity of 96.23% and specificity of 99.07%. The trial was carried out in the Daye City Center for Disease Control and Prevention within China.

“The MDA also conducted its own clinical trials in Malaysia prior to this approval,” it added.

Meanwhile, Holista chief executive officer (CEO) Datuk Dr Rajen Manicka said rapid testing is the key to controlling the spread of infections and revive economic activity with confidence as the pandemic had impacted Malaysia severely with rising infections, deaths and prolonged movement controls.

“An infected person can spread the virus for several days without showing symptoms. To counter this, regular antigen RTK testing can curb infections in a very affordable manner.

“High frequency mass testing has been hugely successful in curbing infections in China, South Korea, Slovakia, Switzerland and the UK. We are glad that they are being introduced in Malaysia.

“The Slovakia approach of testing brought infections down by more than 50%. Its success has been reported by the *British Medical Journal*, *The Lancet*, *Science* and *Scientific American* earlier this year,” Rajen said.

Separately, Holista has also developed a mobile application that allows efficient tracking and tracing based on the “traffic light” model, which has been successfully deployed by the National Health Service in the UK.

It also has rights to distribute the Hecin Covid-19 test kit in Brunei, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Singapore and the UK.

*Edited by Lam Jian Wyn*