

Developing a detection kit

Scientists from the Home Team Science and Technology Agency (HTX) are developing a probe to test for the Wuhan virus, which has been described as a novel coronavirus that has a genetic make-up similar to that of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (Sars) virus. This is how it is being done.

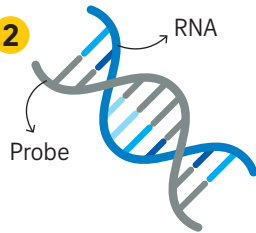
Dr Oh Hue Kian, deputy lab manager at HTX, extracting samples.

1



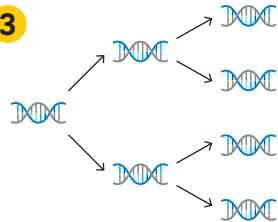
The scientists identify the regions in the Wuhan virus' ribonucleic acid (RNA) that are unique to it. The virus' RNA contains its genetic information

2



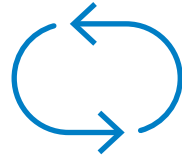
They then design a probe that fits the unique region of the RNA strand

3



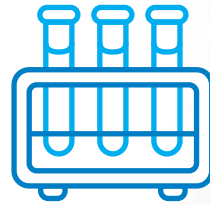
More of the unique RNA region are produced through a process called polymerase chain reaction. This produces millions of copies for easier analysis

4



A few unique regions will be chosen and a number of probes will be designed for testing. The probes that perform the best will be chosen

5



Once the probes are made into a detection kit, it can be used to test for whether the Wuhan virus is present in samples. The entire process can take a few months

