

Flash note
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Detect the presence of the Covid by voice? It would be a wonderful

Indo-Israeli scientists to work on 4 Covid tests through voice, breath and saliva

This is one of those news items that must be taken with great caution (some Israeli politicians advanced the imminence of their own vaccine, which did not appear anywhere). But I would like to share this news with you, due to how attractive and disruptive it sounds, and that has entered my mailbox of relevant matters in Reuters / Refinitive. Of course, I will closely follow this development that could put the virus in check.

A special flight of Israeli scientists is heading to India this week to work with their counterparts to **finalize** four breakthrough pandemic-related technologies to detect the presence of SARS-CoV-2 pathogen that causes coronavirus.

These technologies include two Covid-19 tests that could give results in minutes from a saliva sample. A third that could tell if a person has incipient Covid by listening to their voice. And a fourth, a virus detector from breath sample.

"The first phase of testing of these technologies was done in Israel. The last stage will now be carried out in India" . Said Israel's ambassador to India, Ron Malkin.

Saliva based samples:

- One technology is a new Covid test that uses polyamino acids to produce a result in 30 minutes, said Dani Gold, head of Israel's Directorate of Defence Research and Development. "This will mean you can be tested as you enter an airport, a mall or anywhere and be cleared. Real-time testing would allow the economy to open again.
- A second technology is a biochemical test that can be used at home and gives a result in 30 minutes. Both can work with a saliva sample.

Voice based samples

- The third technology uses artificial intelligence (AI) to listen to a person's voice and determine if he or she has first stage Covid. "It plays on the fact Covid attacks the respiratory system. One could even do the diagnosis through a cell phone," said Gold.

Breath based samples

- The third method is a breath analyser. "One would breathe into a tube, and uses terahertz radio frequencies and an algorithm"

The Israeli and Indian scientists will carry out 4,000-5,000 tests of each technology in India to determine if they can work. "India is an AI (artificial intelligence) superpower," said Gold. "With these tests, hopefully we will be able to mature the technology and deploy it across the board."

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