Can rapid tests for Covid-19 give a booster shot to global tourism?

Business gains must be weighed against risks of false discoveries, false negatives in testing

We have to be mindful not to be lulled into a false sense of security by a large number of our quarantine and mass-testing strategies at the borders, and instead be mentally prepared that there may be a few rare imported cases that will slip past despite these measures.

The inferred transfer will almost certainly be an unlinked index case, and the inferred travel will not be possible, given that the incubation time of the imported case is short. The testing of more than 100,000 new arrivals will not necessarily prevent the spread of the disease, but it will provide us with a better understanding of the infection dynamics.

The present quarantine requirements have been revised against the false negatives from secondary infections during travel, besides prolonging primary infections, to continue to maintain strict travel restrictions. The duration of the travel to the destination in the relatively low-incidence areas will be shortened from 14 days to 7 days, which will significantly reduce the risk of transmission.

Source: The Straits Times © Singapore Press Holdings Ltd. Permission required for reproduction