

Dogs to sniff out COVID-19 infections - recent literature.

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A recent development has been training of dogs (“sniffer dogs”) to sniff out COVID-19 infections in real-time using a variety of specimens including armpit sweat, saliva, tracheobronchial secretion samples, face masks and clothes. This approach is founded on the considerable success of dogs in detecting disease (e.g., infectious diseases, cancers, diabetes), explosives, drugs and other contraband items (e.g., endangered species). A dog’s nose has 300 million olfactory receptors (vs 6 million for humans) and dogs are attracted to new and interesting odors (neophilia). These factors serve to make a dog a highly sensitive real-time olfactive detector.

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