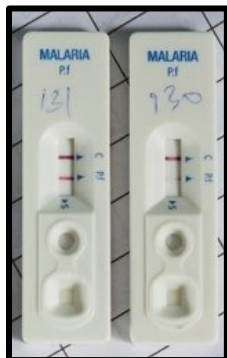
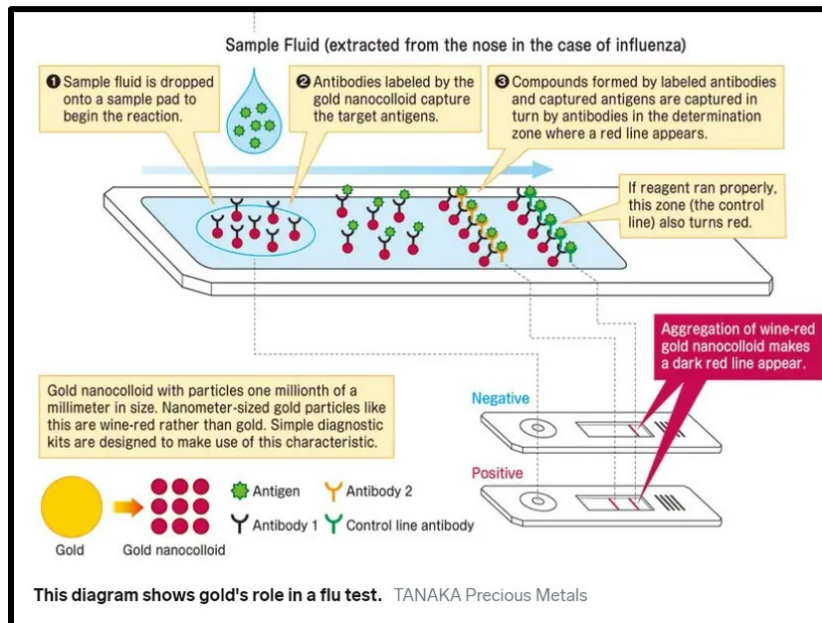


What do COVID-19, pregnancy, malaria, flu, and other diagnostic tests have in common? Gold!

Gold is critical in accurate, easy-to-use rapid tests that diagnose a wide swath of conditions. 'Lateral flow tests' look for a biomarker or pathogen in our urine, blood, or sample from our throat or nose, and then deliver a positive or negative result. We know whether the news is good or bad based on the number of lines that appear in the window. One means the diagnosis is negative and two is positive. No lab is needed; results are known within 30 minutes. If you held a COVID-19 test, you likely held nanocolloids containing nanometer-sized gold.



How does it work? Trevor Keel, World Gold Council consultant, says the gold particles travel down the test strip with the patient sample. In a test for malaria, for example, the sample is a drop of blood. If the disease is present, the gold collects on the test line to change the color to a deep purple. Without gold, there is no color change. A rapid diagnosis with color change made the flow test intuitive and deployable worldwide. The first test to use gold in this mass-accessible format? A do-it-yourself pregnancy test in 1971 in the UK.



Rapid testing is just one way we use gold in medicine. It is vital in imaging, cancer therapy, fighting infection and much, much more. The yellow metal does not cause adverse reactions to our body (even internal organs). Check out [Transforming Life](#) from the WGC. Search 'medicine and gold' on the web to learn more.

Jennifer Ropiak is a precious metals market specialist with over 30 years' experience, including 20 years of trading (15 at Morgan Stanley). In 2014, Jennifer launched Trusted Partner Metals, an independent consultancy whose clients span

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