

# Portuguese Court Rules PCR Tests as Unreliable & Unlawful to Quarantine People

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The court stated, the test's reliability depends on the number of cycles used and the viral load present. Citing [Jaafar et al. 2020](#), the court concludes that

*“if someone is tested by PCR as positive when a threshold of 35 cycles or higher is used (as is the rule in most laboratories in Europe and the US), the probability that said person is infected is less than 3%, and the probability that said result is a false positive is 97%.”*

The court further notes that the cycle threshold used for the PCR tests currently being made in Portugal is unknown.

**The threshold cycles used in PCR tests in India is between 37 and 40, which makes the [reliability of the PCR test](#) less than 3% and the false positive rate as high as 97%.**

This case concerned the fact that four people had been quarantined by the Regional Health Authority. Of these, one had tested positive for COVID using a PCR test; the other three were deemed to have undergone a high risk of exposure. Consequently, the Regional Health Authority decided that all four were infectious and a health hazard, which required that they go into isolation.