Chest CT is more sensitive for early COVID-19 diagnosis than chest X-ray

Why?
- Chest X-ray may remain normal for 4-5 days after start of symptoms
- CT scan shows typical pattern of ground glass opacity and consolidation

Therefore:
- CT scan should be performed unless patient cannot be moved
- Patient in ICU: chest X-ray is preferred unless complications are suspected

Chest CT may show abnormalities typical for COVID-19, even if PCR is still negative
So:
- Trust the CT scan and assume patient is COVID-19 positive
- Repeat PCR

Extent of lesions on CT predicts progression towards mechanical ventilation and resuscitation
So:
- Repeat CT at day 7-8 and day 14-15
- Consider additional CT depending on clinical evolution or to exclude potential complications