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The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly improved global preparedness for future pandemics, highlighting the importance of rapid diagnostics, healthcare infrastructure, and global cooperation. One major advancement is the widespread availability of PCR testing. The development of testing tools like the SIGMA MM™ inactivation medium by MWE has enhanced safe specimen collection. Its design minimises contamination and risk of exposure during testing, ensuring safer, more reliable diagnostics for healthcare workers. These innovations, combined with improved vaccine development processes and global response frameworks, leave us better equipped to manage future outbreaks.