

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
HEALTH MEDICAL & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

Order No.116/COVID-19/2020-21 Date: 04.05.2021

COVID INSTANT ORDER -116


Sub: COVID-19 – Conduct of continuous fever survey and surveillance in the state-
Certain instructions issued –reg.

Instructions were issued to conduct fever survey at different intervals and conduct fever clinics in all containment zones. But in the recent weeks, it is noticed that suspects are reporting for covid sample collection and tests after three to four days of onset of symptoms and leading to hospitals admission in later stage and complications.

As such, it is decided to conduct continuous fever survey for early detection of covid positives and initiation of covid treatment to control further spread of the disease. The following instructions are issued for continuous fever survey.

1. All ASHAs shall visit the houses under their jurisdiction on daily basis and report the fever cases to ANM. The details of the such fever cases shall be uploaded by the village volunteer in the Volunteer app.
2. ANM on receipt of such details from ASHA and through App, shall arrange for sample collection and testing of the fever cases , ILI and SARI cases and
3. If found positive, the protocols of triaging, positive case management shall be followed.
4. The Advisory on Testing issued by ICMR, dated:-4.5.2021 is attached for compliance.

Hence, District Collectors and DMHOs shall ensure proper and continuous fever survey and surveillance in the districts and initiate other covid protocols of tracing, triaging, treating and maintenance of Home isolation/quarantine scrupulously.


Principal Secretary to the Government

To

All the Collectors and District Magistrates in the state

All Joint Collectors (development) in the state

All the DMHOs in the state



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कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare, Government of India

Date: 04/05/2021

Advisory for COVID-19 testing during the second wave of the pandemic

Context

An unprecedented upsurge of COVID-19 cases and deaths is currently being witnessed across India. The overall nationwide test positivity rate is above 20%. Testing-tracking-tracing, isolation and home-based treatment of positive patients is the key measure to curb transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent of COVID-19. As on today, India has a total of 2506 molecular testing laboratories including RTPCR, TrueNat, CBNAAT and other platforms. The total daily National testing capacity is close to 15 lakh tests considering a three- shift operationalization of the existing laboratory network. At present, the laboratories are facing challenges to meet the expected testing target due to extraordinary case load and staff getting infected with COVID-19. In view of this situation, it is imperative to optimize the RTPCR testing and simultaneously increase the access and availability of testing to all citizens of the country.

Recommended measures to optimize RTPCR testing

- i. RTPCR test must not be repeated in any individual who has tested positive once either by RAT or RTPCR.
- ii. No testing is required for COVID-19 recovered individuals at the time of hospital discharge in accordance with the discharge policy of MoH&FW (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/ReviseddischargePolicyforCOVID19.pdf>).
- iii. The need for RTPCR test in healthy individuals undertaking inter-state domestic travel may be completely removed to reduce the load on laboratories.
- iv. Non-essential travel and interstate travel of symptomatic individuals (COVID-19 or flu like symptoms) should be essentially avoided to reduce the risk of infection.
- v. All asymptomatic individuals undertaking essential travel must follow COVID appropriate behavior.
- vi. Mobile testing laboratories are now available on GeM portal. States are encouraged to augment RTPCR testing through mobile systems.

Measures to improve access and availability of testing:

Rapid antigen tests (RATs) were recommended in India for COVID-19 testing in June 2020. However, the use of these tests is currently limited to containment zones and health care settings. RAT has a short turn-around time of 15-30 minutes and thus offers a huge advantage of quick detection of cases and opportunity to isolate and treat them early for curbing transmission. So far, ICMR has approved 36 RATs of which 10 are on GeM portal. To meet the overwhelming testing demand, it will be prudent to upscale testing using RATs.