

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

Order No.61/ COVID-19/2020,

Date: .06.2020

COVID Instant Order 61

Sub: HM&FW -instruction for sample collection and testing process – color coding - Orders – Issued.

As cases are increasing, it is imperative that all districts not only achieve testing targets but also ensure that testing is done systematically and expeditiously, so that delays which are being noticed are avoided and further follow up action can be taken immediately as per test result.

It is observed that there is a gap between testing capacity, actual no. of tests done and result updation, where as COVID Orders 56, 58, 59 specify whom to test, there is also need to specify the time lines for testing these categories. There shall be four categories of persons to be tested as per the urgency.

- a) Extremely Urgent: Primary Contacts, Secondary Contacts, High Profile Persons, Persons in Containment Zones, Persons waiting for discharge from hospitals, Persons waiting for discharge from COVID Care Centers, Persons waiting for discharge from Institutional Quarantine facilities, persons coming on business/official purpose for 2-3 days stay^{who} are exempt from Institutional Quarantine.
- b) Very Urgent : symptomatic persons, fever cases, SARI / ILI cases, persons from fever clinics, frontline health workers, front line government servants, municipal staff and other frontline staff working in COVID duties.
- c) Urgent: Sero Surveillance, Sentinel Surveillance, targeted testing groups, old & vulnerable, IMS test requests, Arogyasetu alert cases.
- d) Normal : all other cases

1. Colour – Coding criteria (Prioritisation) for VRDL / TrueNat / CBNAAT / NACO Viral Load Testing Labs

VTM / VLM Sample collection Tube has to be labelled using Red / Orange / Green coloured stickers (Dimensions: 6.5cm length X 1.5cm width) and the Sample ID has to be marked on the coloured stickers and has to be sent for Testing.

District Collectors are instructed to print such colour coding stickers in large numbers and to supply them to the field staff concerned with sample collection in adequate numbers.

S.No.	Colour Coding	Priority Category	Time-limit for testing at the Labs
1	RED	EXTREMELY URGENT	To be tested within 12 hours of receiving the samples.
2	ORANGE	VERY URGENT	To be tested within 24 hours of receiving the samples.
3	BLUE	URGENT	To be tested within 36 hours of receiving the samples.
4	GREEN	NORMAL	To be tested within 48 hours of receiving the samples.

While sending the samples to the Labs the concerned Sample Collection Personnel has to send them in separate Sample Carrier boxes specifying their Priority Category as Extremely Urgent / Very Urgent / Urgent / Normal. The above timeline means the test result is declared within the timelines mentioned and citizen is informed of the result.

2. Ideal Time-limit for sending the Samples to the Lab:

Once the Sample (VTM / VLM) is collected, it should reach the Lab within 12 hours

3. Ideal Quantum of Sample Collection:

Any Lab should not be over burdened or not having enough work at any time. No lab should be having samples to the quantity exceeding three times of their daily testing capacity at any point of time. No lab shall have samples less than 1 ½ day capacity of samples at any point of time.


Joint Collectors (Development and Health) should visit the labs frequently and should coordinate this exercise between the field staff and the labs. The Joint Collectors (Development & Health) shall be responsible for any deviation from this norm.

4. Data entry Process:

All the Labs should enter the data on real time basis, sample results should be updated in MSS portal within 3 hours and ICMR Portal updation should not be more than 6 hours.

District Collectors are requested to ensure adequate numbers of Data Managers / Data Entry Operators for the testing labs so as to facilitate the real time updation of the data in both MSS Portal and ICMR Portal.

All the District Collectors are requested to personally look into the matter for implementation of above orders.


Spl. Chief Secretary to Govt.

To
All the Collector & District Magistrates
All the DM&HOs in the State
All the Lab Nodal Officers in the State