GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
HEALTH MEDICAL & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

<u>Order No. 111 /COVID-19/2021,</u>   <u>Date: 25.04.2021</u>

Sub: HMFW –COVID-19 –Prevention and Management of COVID19-Certain instructions for Sample collection, transportation and testing-regarding

Ref : 1. Covid Instant Order-3, Dated 24.03.2020
2. COVID Instant Order-11, Dated 28.03.2020
3. COVID Instant Order-11A, Dated 03.04.2020
4. COVID Instant Order-21, Dated 09.04.2020
5. COVID Instant Order-26, Dated 26.04.2020
6. COVID Instant Order-30, Dated 19.04.2020
7. COVID Instant Order-35, Dated. 22.04.2020
8. COVID Instant Order-52, Dated 22.05.2020
9. COVID Instant Order-54, Dated 30.05.2020
10. COVID Instant Order-54A, Dated 26.02.2021
11. COVID Instant Order-58, Dated 13.06.2020
12. COVID Instant Order-61, Dated 05.06.2020
13. COVID Instant Order-65, Dated 13.07.2020
14. COVID Instant Order-80, Dated 31.08.2020

<u>COVID INSTANT ORDER –111</u>

India is passing through second wave of COVID19 and our state is no exception. We are also experiencing high positivity in all the districts which is a point of concern. Tracing and Testing of COVID suspects plays a very crucial role in containing and controlling of COVID19 infection.

Who should be Tested:

- All primary contacts of confirmed positive (who lives within the same household, and who have been in close contact) shall be tested without reference to symptoms between 5 to 14 days of such contact
- All symptomatic persons
- All identified ARDS and SARI cases shall be mandatorily tested.
  - Persons with following mentioned illness are considered as SARI patients / cases.
    - Acute exacerbation of COPD
    - Acute severe Asthma
    - Acute exacerbation of ILD

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- Acute exacerbation of Bronchiectasis.
- Severe Pneumonia / ARDS
- Acute worsening of Tuberculosis

- During the fever Surveillance in the community, all symptomatic (fever/Cough/Difficulty in breathing) suspects, who are identified in surveillance, shall be tested if
  a. History of Fever/Cough or both for more than three days   or
  b. Sudden onset of breathlessness without any previous history
- Persons requesting for test through 104 call centre who have ben verified by the doctors at 104 call center and recommended for testing

Types of Tests:
- VRDL (Confirmatory in nature)- SWAB based
- TRUENAT (SWAB based)- Confirmatory test

Sample Taking:
- The samples collected in the field at PHCs, CHCs and AHs are to be sent to the designated Lab on the same day through the dedicated vehicles as per their route plan.
- Prioritization of samples need to as per the Covid instant Order - 61 while sending the samples to the Lab.
- The priority samples so identified are to be kept in separate box and not mixed with other categories.

Colour Coding and Prioritization of Samples
It is observed that there is a gap between testing capacity, actual no. of tests done and result updation and there is also need to specify the time lines for testing these categories. There shall be three categories of persons to be tested as per the urgency.

a) **Extremely Urgent:** Fever, SARI, ILI Cases, and Primary Contacts

b) **Very Urgent:** symptomatic persons, 104 Test Tickets Cases

c) **Normal:** all other cases

- **Colour - Coding criteria (Prioritization) for VRDL / TrueNat / CBNAAT / NACO Viral load Testing Labs:**

    VTM / VLM Sample collection Tube has to be labelled using Red / Orange and Green coloured stickers (Dimensions: 6.5cm length X 1.5cm width) and the Sample ID has to 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	GREEN	NORMAL	To be tested within 36 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 /Normal. The boxes shall be pasted with Red/Orange/Green stickers as per priority. The above timeline means that the test result is declared within the timelines mentioned and citizen is informed of the result.

- **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. Detailed route plans with dedicated vehicles shall be deployed by District Collectors for same.

- **Ideal Quantum of sample Collection:**

    Any Lab should not be overburdened 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 150% 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.

- **Data entry Process:**

    All the Labs should enter the data on real time basis, sample results should be updated in MSS portal within 2 hours.

Sample Collection:

All Government facilities shall act as Sample Collection centres.

Sl. No.	Type of Institution	Number of Institutions
1	Teaching Hospitals	11
2	District Hospital	14
3	Area Hospital	28
4	Community Health Centers	195
5	Urban Primary Health Centers	259
6	PHCs	1143

Apart from these places designated private labs with ICMR approval are also permitted for testing strictly as per rates finalized by Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Lab Process:

- All the VRDL labs and TRUENAT labs are instructed to establish Sample Receiving Counters in their lab premises for the three shifts in 24X7 mode.
- Once the samples are received at labs, the personnel responsible for receiving the samples must open the boxes and check all the samples individually and immediately accept them against their sample ID number in MSS COVID Portal login provided to them.
- Any sample without following proper standards like without Sample ID, without SRF and improper capping will be rejected at the Sample Collecting Counter itself physically and also in the MSS COVID Portal'
- All the labs are instructed to ensure that lab testing of samples happens only for the accepted samples as entered in the MSS COVID Portal
- wherein it was instructed to do priority testing for the samples received with the red strips bearing the sample ID. Hence, all the labs shall prioritize testing for such samples in stipulated time.

- In case of repeat positive (+ve) samples, all the labs are requested to enter them as repeat +ve and not as new +ve. Proper care should be taken to avoid any confusion.

Protocols-Test result:

- Labs must ensure test results are published in MSS COVID Portal and lag of data entry should not be more than two hours between result and data entry. Dedicated data entry operator shall be deployed.

All the Collectors and District Magistrates are directed to ensure implementation of above Covid Order in letter and spirit.

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
All the Collector & District Magistrates

Copy to:
The Director, Medical Education, AP, Vijayawada
The Director, Public Health & Family Welfare
The Commissioner, APVVP, Vijayawada
The Regional Directors of Medical & Health Services, Andhra Pradesh
All the DM&HOs in the State
All the DCHSs in the State.