

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

HEALTH MEDICAL & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Order No. 142/COVID-19/2020-21

12/01/2022

**COVID INSTANT ORDER –142**

Sub:- HMFWD-COVID19-Communication of advisory on Covid19 testing strategy – testing to in-patients – certain guidelines - issued- reg

Ref:-Guidelines issued by MoH& FW , GOI dated 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

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While enclosing the revised Guidelines issued by MOH&FW Government of India dated 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 on Covid19 testing strategy, the District Collectors, superintendents of all Hospitals(Govt & Private) and DMHOs are requested to follow these guidelines scrupulously.

As per the guidelines, testing to be done for

- Early detection of symptomatic cases for quick isolation and care.
  - Early detection of infections in elderly (>60yr) and individuals with co-morbidity (diabetes, hypertension, chronic lung or kidney disease, malignancy, obesity etc) for quick care.
1. Testing to be done to Symptomatic (cough, fever, sore throat, loss of taste and/or smell, breathlessness and/or other respiratory symptoms) individuals.
  2. . At-risk contacts of laboratory confirmed cases. [At-risk contacts are elderly (>60yr) and individuals with co-morbidity such as diabetes, hypertension, chronic lung or kidney disease, malignancy, obesity etc).
  3. Individuals undertaking international travel (as per specific requirements indicated by Ministry of Aviation).
  4. International travellers arriving at airports/seaports/ports of entries.

**Testing in Hospital Settings:**

Testing may be undertaken as per discretion of the treating doctor with the following considerations:

- No emergency procedure (including surgeries and deliveries) should be delayed for lack of a test.
- Patients should not be referred to other facilities for lack of a testing facility.
- All arrangements should be made by the hospitals to collect and transfer samples to testing facilities, mapped to the health facility.
- **Asymptomatic patients undergoing surgical/non-surgical invasive procedures including pregnant women in/near labour who are hospitalized for delivery should not be tested unless warranted or symptoms develop.**
- In - patients need not be tested more than once a week.

**People who need not be tested:**

1. Asymptomatic individuals in the community
2. Contacts of confirmed cases of COVID-19 unless identified as high risk based on age or co-morbidities
3. Patients who stand discharged as per home isolation guidelines(after seven days tested positive)
4. Patients being discharged from a COVID-19 facility as per revised discharge policy
5. Individuals undertaking inter-state domestic travel

**Important points to consider:**

- Testing can be undertaken either through rRT-PCR, TrueNat, CBNAAT, Rapid Molecular Testing Systems or through Rapid Antigen Test (RAT).
- A positive test at home through Self-test or rapid antigen test (RAT) and Molecular Test is to be considered confirmatory, without any repeat testing.
- Home or Self-test / RAT should be interpreted as per algorithm at Annexure. Symptomatic individuals, testing negative on Home/Self-test or RAT should undertake rRTPCR test as detailed in the algorithm.
- List of approved home tests, RAT and rRTPCR kits are available at the following links:
  - [https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/kits/COVID\\_Home\\_Test\\_Kit\\_23112021.pdf](https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/kits/COVID_Home_Test_Kit_23112021.pdf)
  - [https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/kits/List\\_of\\_rapid\\_antigen\\_kits\\_30122021.pdf](https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/kits/List_of_rapid_antigen_kits_30122021.pdf)
  - [https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/kits/RT\\_PCR\\_Tests\\_Kits\\_Evaluation\\_Summ\\_23122021.pdf](https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/kits/RT_PCR_Tests_Kits_Evaluation_Summ_23122021.pdf)
- Home Testing advisory of ICMR is available at:  
[https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/kits/Advisory\\_Home\\_Test\\_kit\\_19052021\\_v1.pdf](https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/kits/Advisory_Home_Test_kit_19052021_v1.pdf)
- **All rRTPCR and RAT test results should be uploaded on ICMR portal** at: <https://cvstatus.icmr.gov.in>.
- The vaccination status of all individuals tested for COVID-19 must be entered into the Sample Referral Form (SRF) in the RTPCR app both for individuals tested by rRTPCR and RAT. This information is of critical importance to understand the break through infection.
- Genome Sequencing is done for surveillance purposes and is not required to be undertaken for treatment purposes. Therefore, genome sequencing is to be performed only in a subset of positive samples as per recommendations of INSACOG (Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Surveillance Consortium).

- The newer SARS-CoV-2 Omicron or variant detection rRTPCR assays are recommended to be used in areas with limited genomic surveillance capacity for quick detection of emergence of newer variants in such areas.

Hence the District Collectors, DMHOs and Superintendents of the Hospitals are requested to follow the above guidelines in testing and also in respect of surgeries, in-patients and conducting deliveries

Encl: Revised guidelines for testing

ANIL KUMAR SINGHAL, PRL

SECY(AKS), SECRETARY TO GOVT(HMFW)-HMF01

Principal Secretary to the Govt. HMFW dept.

All District Magistrates & Collectors in the state

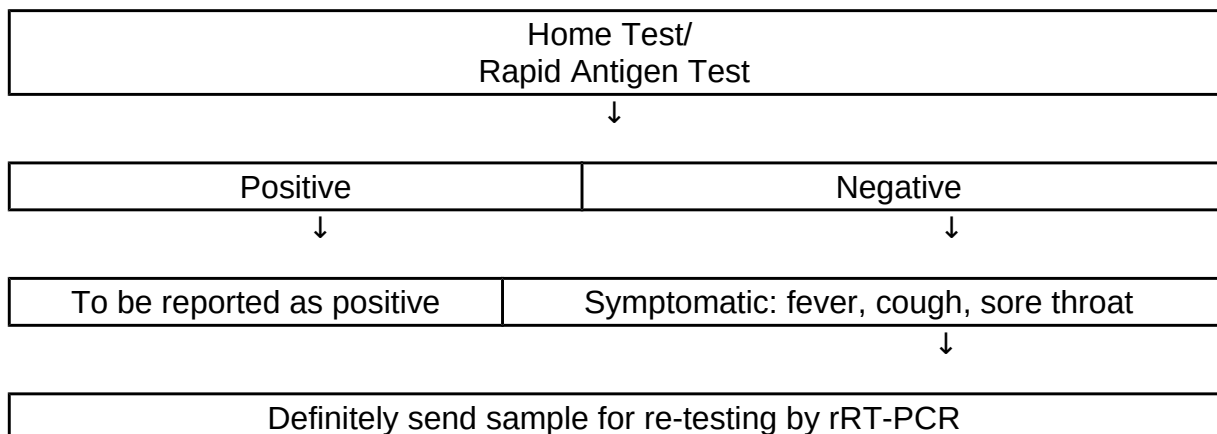
All Joint Collector(V, WS & Development) in the state

All DMHOs in the state

All superintendents of the Government and private Hospitals in the state through DME, APVVP, APNA and ASHA

**Annexure**

Algorithm for COVID-19 Test Interpretation Using Home Test/ Rapid Antigen Point-of-Care Test



- All positive and negative results should be entered into the ICMR portal on a real time basis after performing the test.
- Results of samples subjected to rRT-PCR should be entered after the rRT-PCR results are available.

