Government of West Bengal
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Swasthya Bhawan, GN-29, Sector-V
Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 91

Memo No. MPH/9M-21/2020/93

Advisory on Rapid Antibody Tests

The State Government has decided to conduct Rapid Antibody Tests in line with the Advisory dated 17/04/2020 of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a copy of which is enclosed for ready reference and guidance.

To start with, these rapid tests will be conducted in (i) any hotspots/ clusters/ containment zones or (ii) as a surveillance tool for epidemiological purposes in such areas where cases have not emerged so far.

The tests are to be done under strict medical supervision and hence, the districts of the State have been tagged with the Medical College Hospitals (Annexure.1).

To prevent any panic mongering, the results of the rapid tests shall not be revealed instantaneously to the persons tested, and shall be shared as prescribed in ICMR’s advisory dated 17/4/2020 (copy enclosed). Each Medical College Hospital shall also email, in real time/ at the earliest possible, the results to akbiswaspri@gmail.com.

Considering the limited numbers of testing kits, and to avoid wastage of this precious resource, prior approval of the Department of Health & Family Welfare shall have to be taken before undertaking rapid tests in any area of the State.

Director of Medical Education
Government of West Bengal

Date: 18/04/2020

Memo No. MPH/9M-21/2020/93

Copy forwarded for kind information and necessary action:

1. The Mission Director, NHM, West Bengal
2. The Principal (All Medical Colleges)
3. The MSVP (All Medical Colleges)
4. Jt. DHS (PH&CD), West Bengal
5. The DDHS (Malaria), West Bengal
6. The DDHS (PH), West Bengal
7. Dr. Asit Kumar Biswas, DDHS (Leprosy), West Bengal
8. The Chief Medical Officer of Health (All Districts and Health Districts)
9. The Dy Chief Medical Officer of Health-II (All Districts and Health Districts)
10. Office Copy

Director of Medical Education
Government of West Bengal

Date: 18/04/2020

Director of Health Services
Government of West Bengal
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl no</th>
<th>Name of the District</th>
<th>Who will collect the kit</th>
<th>Who will conduct test</th>
<th>Testing protocol</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cooch Behar</td>
<td>CMOH</td>
<td>Coochbehar Govt Medical College</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Alipurduar</td>
<td>CMOH</td>
<td>North Bengal Medical College</td>
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<td>Kalimpong</td>
<td>CMOH</td>
<td>Raiganj Govt Medical College</td>
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<td>CMOH</td>
<td>Maida Medical College</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Uttar Dinajpur</td>
<td>CMOH</td>
<td>Rampurhat Govt Medical College</td>
<td>In red zone areas where containment activities are</td>
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<td>Dakshin Dinajpur</td>
<td>CMOH</td>
<td>Bankura Medical College</td>
<td>going on, and only upon receipt of prior clearance</td>
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<td>from Swasthya Bhavan</td>
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<td>Diamond Harbour HD</td>
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<td>Govt MC Diamond Harbour</td>
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Addl.Chief Secretary/Secretary/Principal Secretary Health (All States)

Sub: Protocol for using 'Rapid antibody test' in Hot area – epidemiological studies and surveillance

I am writing to you with reference to the rapid antibody test kits for COVID-19 testing. It is understood that many States intend to use these kits in affected areas.

2. The National Task Force at ICMR has carefully reviewed the data evolving from various countries on use of such kits. Based on available evidence, the testing strategy for COVID-19 has been revised further. The revised document is enclosed for your reference.

3. It is critical to understand the following key facts while using the rapid antibody tests:

- Gold standard frontline test for COVID-19 diagnosis is real time PCR based molecular test, which is aimed at early virus detection.
- The rapid antibody test cannot replace the frontline test.
- The rapid Antibody test is a supplementary tool to assess the prevalence of the diseases within a specific area / perimeter.
- The rapid antibody test will only be of utility after a minimum of 7 days of onset of symptoms.
- Data about these rapid tests is emerging and understanding of their utility for diagnosis is still evolving.
- The rapid tests are useful for epidemiological studies and surveillance purposes.
- THE TEST HAS TO BE DONE UNDER STRICT MEDICAL SUPERVISION.

4. The enclosed ICMR advisory is for Hot spots. In case your state does not have a Hot spot, these tests may be used for:

a) Any hotspot which may emerge in future

OR

b) As a surveillance tool for epidemiological purposes in such areas where cases have not emerged so far.

5. Before starting the rapid test, it should be registered on covid19cc.nic.in/ICMR and data related to the test should be reported on the same.

With best regards

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Prof. (Dr.) Balram Bhargava
Padma Shri
MD, DM, FRCP (Glasg), FRCP (Edin.),
FACC, FAHA, FAMS, FNASC, FASc, FNA, DSc

Secretary to the Government of India
Department of Health Research
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare &
Director-General, ICMR

Indian Council of Medical Research
Department of Health Research
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India
V. Ramalingaswami Bhawan, Ansari Nagar
New Delhi - 110 029
D.O.No. VIR/4/2020/EC/1 (Vol.I)
Dated: 17th April 2020
A. COVID-19 Testing Strategy for India (Recommended for the entire country)

Real-Time PCR (RT-PCR) test and Point-of-Care molecular diagnostic assays are recommended for diagnosis of COVID-19 among individuals belonging to the following categories:

- All symptomatic individuals who have undertaken international travel in the last 14 days
- All symptomatic contacts of laboratory confirmed cases
- All symptomatic health care workers
- All patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (fever AND cough and/or shortness of breath)
- Asymptomatic direct and high-risk contacts of a confirmed case should be tested once between day 5 and day 14 of coming in his/her contact

B. Additional (in addition to A) Testing recommended in hot spots

Additional Testing for Hot spot areas

**Hot spot areas**

(as per MoH&FW)

Symptom (Influenza-Like-Illness)
Fever AND Cough, Cold

<7 days

RT-PCR

+ ve

Confirmed COVID19 case.

- ve

Susceptible

>7 days

Rapid Antibody Test

+ ve

Quarantine for at least next 7 days

- ve

Advise to continue quarantine for at least 7 days as you are in hotspot.

- **

If clinical suspicion high for COVID, do RT-PCR

Refer to Hospital if symptoms appear / worsen

Follow precautions, social distancing, use masks, frequent hand washing, avoid unnecessary travel)