



**COVID-19 (nCorona) Virus Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell**

**Health & Family Welfare Department**

**Government of Kerala**

**REVISED TESTING GUIDELINES FOR COVID-19, FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

**No.7/ 31/F2/2020/Health- February 9, 2021**

In the background of recent change in the epidemiology of COVID-19 in the state, the guidelines for COVID-19 testing have been revised superseding all previous testing guidelines. The revised categories, type of test and preferred time of testing is provided herewith.

**Part- I**

<b>Cat. no</b>	<b>CATEGORY- Description</b>	<b>TYPE TEST</b>	<b>PREFERRED TIME OF TEST</b>
1	All <b>Influenza Like Illnesses(ILI)</b>	Rapid Antigen Test – if the antigen test result is negative perform RTPCR(Individual samples)	On the same day. (As early as possible during the symptomatic period)
2	Severe Acute Respiratory Infection ( <b>SARI</b> )	Rapid Antigen Test – if the Antigen test result is negative perform RTPCR(Individual samples)	On the same day.(As early as possible during the symptomatic period)
3	Non-ILI ( with no symptoms) patients from containment zones	Rapid Antigen Test	On the same day.
4	Asymptomatic <b>vulnerable persons</b> in <b>community clusters</b>  a. Elderly (age 60yrs or more) b. Antenatal and immediate postnatal c. Children with severe malnutrition	RTPCR (Individual)	On the same day.

d. Persons with comorbidity			
5	<b>Symptomatic</b> international / interstate traveller in the last 14 days OR <b>symptomatic</b> contacts of a lab confirmed cases on quarantine	Rapid Antigen Test – if the result is negative perform RTPCR (Individual samples)	On the same day. (As early as possible during the symptomatic period)
6	<b>Asymptomatic</b> international / interstate traveller on quarantine.	RTPCR (Individual samples)	On 8 <sup>th</sup> day from start of quarantine
7	<b>Asymptomatic</b> primary contacts* of lab confirmed cases	RTPCR (Individual samples)	On 8 <sup>th</sup> day from last contact
8	Symptomatic persons who are <b>contacts of international/interstate travellers in the last 14 days</b>	RTPCR (Individual samples)	On the same day. (As early as possible during the symptomatic period)
9	<b>Symptomatic Health Care Worker</b> and other <b>front-line workers</b> (police personnel, community volunteers etc)	RT-PCR (Individual samples)	On the same day. (As early as possible during the symptomatic period)
10	<b>Follow-up</b> samples of COVID positive patients	Rapid Antigen Test	As per discharge guidelines
11	<b>For Emergency</b> surgeries	TrueNat / XPERT	As soon as possible
12	Before <b>Elective surgeries</b>	TrueNat / RT-PCR	1-2 days before elective surgery
13	Asymptomatic; Prisoners / persons before or after parole / convicts	Rapid Antigen Test	Periodically
14	ILI among <b>recovered</b> COVID cases	Rapid antigen test followed by RT-PCR (Individual samples)	As early as possible during the symptomatic period- Correlate clinically
15.a	<b>Asymptomatic Institutionalised Elderly:</b> All elderly persons in old	RTPCR	Every months

	age homes and other institutions providing care for the elderly	(Pooled samples)	
15.b	<b>Symptomatic Institutionalised Elderly</b>	RT-PCR (Individual samples)	On the same day. (As early as possible during the symptomatic period)
16	<b>Surveillance</b> samples; from schools, colleges, offices, factories, industries, other institutions, work places and community samples	RTPCR (Pooled samples)	Weekly random sampling
17	<b>Walk in:</b> Voluntary, walk in individuals who solicit COVID-19 test	Rapid Antigen Test	Ask for history of contact and choose the test appropriately, if no relevant history do Rapid Antigen Test
18	<b>Suspected MIS-C/MIS-A</b> (Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in- Children / Adults)	SARS-CoV2 IgG ELISA/CLIA	Interpret as per State Guidelines

**Influenza like Illness (ILI)**-Is an Acute Respiratory Infection with fever  $\geq 38^{\circ}$  C ( $\geq 100^{\circ}$ F) and any one of the following; Cough, Coryza, Sore throat within the last 10 days

**COVID Suspects (symptomatic)** who test **Rapid Antigen negative** should be tested sequentially by RT-PCR and if negative should undergo 7 days of home isolation from the start of illness. Evaluate other causes as required.

The category of patients mentioned in the table above may get tested in any of the approved Government or private laboratories.

**Part-II**

**\*Classification of Contacts**

**Primary Contact:** Any person who has come in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

**Secondary Contact:** Any person who has come in contact with a primary contact.

  
Principal Secretary