



**COVID-19 (nCorona) Virus Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell**  
**Health & Family Welfare Department**  
**Government of Kerala**

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**ADVISORY REGARDING SWABBING OF SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS**  
**UNDERGOING RAPID ANTIGEN TEST FOR COVID-19.**

**No.31/F2/HEALTH- 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021.**

The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), has issued advisory that all **symptomatic individuals found negative on Rapid Antigen Test** shall undergo sequential **testing by RTPCR.**

It has been observed that retesting by RTPCR of symptomatic and rapid antigen test negative individuals needs to be improved in the state.

In this regard it is advised that:

- Two swabs are to be taken simultaneously at the time of swabbing of symptomatic individuals undergoing Rapid Antigen test .
- One sample should be used to perform the Rapid Antigen test.
- If the rapid antigen test is found to be negative on a symptomatic individual, the other swab should be definitely sent immediately for testing using RTPCR.

Principal Secretary