



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

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**AUGEMENTED TESTING STRATEGY FOR KERALA STATE- JULY 2021**

No. 36 /31/F2/2020 Health- 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021

It is decided to do a round of targeted augmented testing at this stage of the pandemic to identify additional cases of COVID-19 and prevent transmission in the community. This will enable in taking interventions for controlling the resurgence of pandemic.

The guidelines for the augmented testing strategy are as follows:

- The augmented testing strategy is to be conducted on **15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2021** to test **1.25 lakh** people on 15<sup>th</sup> July and **2.5 lakh** people on 16<sup>th</sup> July in the state.
- The COVID-19 testing guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Family welfare govt of Kerala are to be followed. (Revised testing guidelines for COVID-19, No 7/31/F2/2020 H & FW- February 9, 2021 available at <https://dhs.kerala.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Guideline-Testing-Feb-2021.pdf>.)
- The target is a total of **3.75 lakhs COVID-19 tests on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**
- Both Rapid antigen and RTPCR tests may be used for the augmented testing strategy according to the availability of resources in the district.

**The objective of the augmented testing are –**

- To identify pockets of infection giving rise to continuous new infections.
- To identify any new segment of population and area giving new infection cases
- To do proper analysis of new infection to do appropriate interventions
- The District Surveillance Officers (COVID DSOs) may do the planning as follows:  
( The list is indicative and not exhaustive. The District Surveillance Unit shall appropriately plan the segment and sample size)
  - All persons with Influenza like illnesses to be tested
  - All persons with SARI to be tested
  - Irrespective of symptoms the following categories of persons are to be tested:

- All people with morbidity – Diabetes, hypertension, other chronic diseases
  - All people less than 45 yrs and coming in contact with masses
  - All people above 45 yrs and not vaccinated
  - Contacts of known COVID cases
  - All patients in OPDs
  - All new Non-COVID admissions (as per the treating Doctor's discretion)
  - Test the population in large clusters and containment zones in the district
  - Test Institutionalised elderly and vulnerable population
  - Increase the surveillance samples from schools, colleges, offices, factories, industries, work places and random community samples.
  - Take samples of pregnant ladies
  - Take samples of children from the areas where the Delta and Delta plus virus is detected and also from other areas having more than 15 TPR in a Panchayath
  - Engage with the private sector labs to perform COVID tests (Patients as per category, staff and visitors).
  - Enhance testing of Health care workers and front line workers
  - Promote health education messages to the general public in the district to solicit walk in COVID tests.
- The DSO shall utilise the Govt RTPCR labs available in their respective districts to the maximum extent possible in consultation with the resources available at the lab facility. Proper intimation on the number of samples and approximate time of delivery of samples to the lab should be provided in advance. The district administration shall support such labs for additional HR and for other logistics.
  - The sample transfer shall be done properly to avoid management delays at the Laboratories
  - All test results, **both positive and negative results are to be entered on the LDMS portal** without delay within 24 hrs. Special arrangements for the night shift may be considered by deploying additional data entry operator for Friday and Saturday to ensure timely data feeding of Lab results.
  - A combination of fixed, mobile or camp approach may be undertaken for the augmented sample collection and testing strategy.
  - The contacts of positive cases should be quarantined and tested as per the testing guidelines.

- **Excluded population:**

- COVID-19 recovered persons in the last 3 months are excluded to undergo RTPCR test unless symptomatic.

The population is also urged to strictly adhere to COVID appropriate behaviour and COVID protocols.

  
**Principal Secretary**