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Health & Family Welfare Department



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No. 9931/H
HFW-SCH-I-EMER-0001/2020
Date 18.04.2020

To

Mission Director, NHM, Odisha
Municipal Commissioner, Bhubaneswar
Director, Medical Education & Training, Odisha
Director, Public Health, Odisha
Director, Health Services, Odisha
State Surveillance Officer, IDSP, Bhubaneswar

Sub: **Protocol for using Rapid Antibody Test in Bhubaneswar**

Ref: **Letter No.9869/H dt.16.04.2020 of H&FW Deptt.**

Madam / Sir,

Bhubaneswar has been classified as a COVID-19 hot spot due to multiple clusters and number of positive cases exceeding 15. Though in terms of number of tests conducted per lakh population, Bhubaneswar is well ahead of other cities classified as hot spots a decision has been taken to further increase the number of tests in the city.

Earlier it was decided to conduct about 5000 tests over a period of 7 days starting from 17.04.2020. In the meantime, about 6000 Rapid Test Kits were received from ICMR, New Delhi on 17.04.2020, ICMR has issued protocol for conducting Rapid Antibody Test in hotspot areas (copy enclosed). These guidelines are very much applicable to Bhubaneswar city. The same should be followed meticulously. However, considering the local circumstances, the following additional guidelines are issued.

It has also been decided to conduct Rapid Test for following categories of people.

1. Asymptomatic persons in the containment area who volunteer to test.
2. People on active duty, such as, healthcare workers, Police, sanitary workers, delivery boys, taxi drivers, street vendors, OMFED / OPOLFED workers, etc.

3. Persons living in slums, labour camps, hostels etc.
4. Elderly persons above 60 years with co-morbidities like hypertension, diabetes, asthma etc.

For the people of category 2, 3 & 4 only those who are selected at random and volunteer shall be tested. If the result is positive, their swabs are to be taken for RT PCR testing for confirmation and they will be advised home quarantine for minimum 14 days / isolation in health care facilities depending on clinical assessment.

In addition to the guidelines issued by the ICMR, all symptomatic individuals irrespective of travel history and contact history are to be tested for COVID-19 using RTPCR and they should be advised home quarantine for minimum 14 days / hospital isolation depending on clinical assessment. It is also reiterated that rapid antibody test is not recommended for high risk cases such as SARI/ ILI cases, contacts of positive cases.

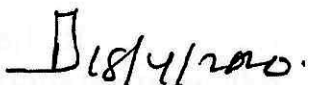
This may be treated as most urgent.

Yours faithfully,


Principal Secretary to Government

Memo No. 9932 /H. Dt. 18.04.2020

Copy submitted to Chief Secretary / Development Commissioner-cum-ACS / Chief Advisor, Chief Minister's Office for kind information.


Principal Secretary to Government



सत्यमेव जयते

प्रोफेसर (डा.) बलराम भार्गव, पदम श्री

एमडी, डीएम, एफआरसीपी (जी.), एफआरसीपी (ई.), एफएसीसी,
एफएएचए, एफएएमएस, एफएनएस, एफएएससी, एफ.एन.ए., डी.एस.सी

सचिव, भारत सरकार

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय एवं

महानिदेशक, आई सी एम आर

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



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स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

भारत सरकार

वी. रामलिंगस्वामी भवन, अंसारी नगर

नई दिल्ली - 110 029

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/ECD-I (Vol.I)

Dated: 17th April 2020

Addl.Chief Secretaery/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

Balram Bhargava

(Balram Bhargava)

Enclosed: As above

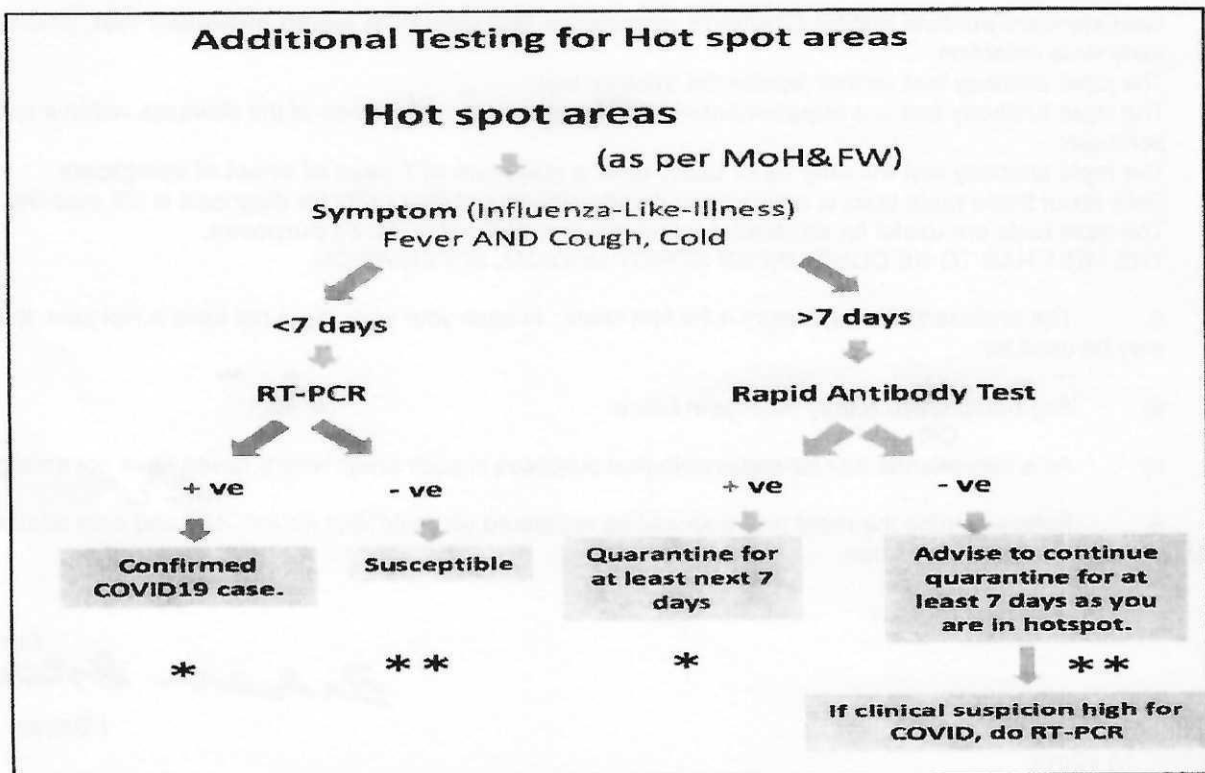
CC: Chief Secretary/Administrators

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



- * Refer to Hospital if symptoms appear / worsen
- ** Follow precautions, social distancing, use masks, frequent hand washing, avoid unnecessary travel)

Babbar Singh