

**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

Date: 18/04/2020

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 akbiswasprl@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.

[Signature] 18/04/2020

Director of Medical Education
Government of West Bengal

[Signature] 18/04/2020

Director of Health Services
Government of West Bengal

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

Date: 18/04/2020

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

[Signature] 18/04/2020

Director of Medical Education
Government of West Bengal

[Signature] 18/04/2020

Director of Health Services
Government of West Bengal

District tagging for Rapid Antibody Testing				
Sl no	Name of the District	Who will collect the kit	Who will conduct test	Testing protocol
1	Cooch Behar	CMOH	Coochbehar Govt Medical College	In red zone areas where containment activities are going on, and only upon receipt of prior clearance from Swasthya Bhavan
2	Alipurduar	CMOH		
3	Darjeeling	CMOH		
4	Kalimpong	CMOH	North Bengal Medical College	
5	Jalpaiguri	CMOH		
6	Uttar Dinajpur	CMOH		
7	Dakshin Dinajpur	CMOH	Raiganj Govt Medical College	
8	Malda	CMOH		
9	Birbhum	CMOH	Malda Medical College	
10	Rampurhat HD	CMOH		
11	Purba Burdwan	CMOH	Rampurhat Govt Medical College	
12	Paschim Burdwan	CMOH		
13	Purulia	CMOH	Burdwan Medical College	
14	Bankura	CMOH	Deben Mahato Purulia Govt MC	
15	Bisnupur HD	CMOH	Bankura Medical College	
16	Paschim Midnapur	CMOH		
17	Jhargram	CMOH	Midnapur Medical College	
18	Purba Midnapur	CMOH		
19	Nandigran HD	CMOH	School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata	
20	North 24 Pgs	CMOH		
21	Basirhat HD	CMOH	RG Kar MCH	
22	Murshidabad	CMOH	Murshidabad MCH	
23	Nadia	CMOH		
24	Diamond Harbour HD	CMOH	Govt MC Diamond Harbour	
25	South 24 Pgs	IPGMER	IPGMER	
26	Kolkata			
27	Howrah			
28	Hooghly			



प्रोफेसर (डा.) बलराम भार्गव, पदम श्री

एमडी, डीएम, एफआरसीपी (जी.), एफआरसीपी (ई.), एफएसीसी,
एफएएचए, एफएमएस, एफएनएएच, एफएससी, 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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भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद

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 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

Balram Bhargava
(Balram Bhargava)

Enclosed: As above

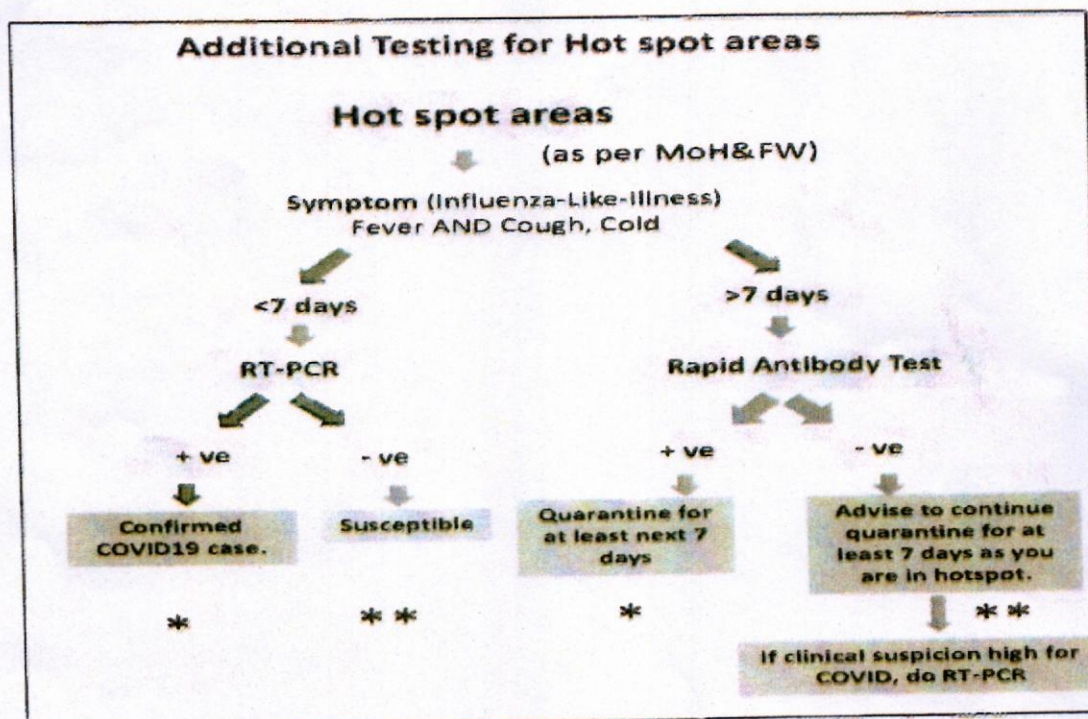
CC: Chief Secretary/Administrators

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)

Bahan Baga