



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

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**Guidelines for COVID19 Testing – through Government laboratories and  
outsource model RTPCR Mobile laboratories and RTPCR ( Static) Laboratories.**  
**No.10. 31/F2/ 2020 HEALTH- 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

1. G.O. (Rt)No.370/2021/H&FWD Dated, 08/02/2021
2. G.O. (Rt)No.555/2021/H&FWD Dated, 24/02/2021
3. G.O. (Rt)No.610/2021/H&FWD Dated, 26/02/2021

**Introduction:**

The laboratory testing is evolving, as we are going forward tackling the COVID pandemic. The testing strategy, testing mechanisms and testing modes have to be dynamic as per the latest knowledge regarding the testing options and availability of the infrastructure.

As per the reference cited the enabling orders to conduct RTPCR testing has been issued.

The following guidelines are issued for operationalizing the testing through government and private sector laboratories with a mix of RTPCR Mobile Laboratories, RTPCR Laboratories (Static) and Government run RTPCR laboratories.

**I. General Guidelines:**

1. All the other guidelines already issued regarding beneficiaries' selection for COVID-19 testing, double swabbing, Antigen test, RTPCR test, RTLAMP test , True NAT test and CBNAAT shall be followed up.
2. The objective of the outsourced model RTPCR testing is to get additionally required RTPCR tests done as per the situation of the epidemic in the field with the faster turnaround time by entrusting all the activities i.e. going to the identified sites in the field, collecting the samples, testing , result uploading and informing to the individual and doing proper waste disposal.



3. The test samples collections and testing are done at different levels and through different mechanism as follows-
  - A. The routine test samples collection by the Department functionaries at Primary Health Centres, Family Health Centres, Community Health Centres, Taluka Hospitals, District Hospitals and Medical Colleges at established Government laboratories.
  - B. Test samples collections by the Department functionaries from the field such as from the Old age homes, Containment zones and Clusters, work places etc. as per the guidelines.
  - C. As per the latest guidelines of Min of H&FW Govt of India dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 for establishing mutant virus surveillance at the airports, the test samples shall be collected from all the international travellers. The Government of Kerala has decided that it should be done at no costs to the international traveller but by reimbursement to the Laboratories by the Government by doing the RTPCR tests at the rate Rs 448/- per test inclusive of all the costs.
  - D. All the walk-in persons to the private labs go and get themselves tested in the respective private laboratories.
4. KMSCL shall give specific formats to get the information to establish that
  - a. the beneficiaries are Government sponsored beneficiaries
  - b. the beneficiaries are International Travellers and the samples are taken at the Airports
  - c. Test results are uploaded in Laboratory Diagnosis Management System ( LDMS) within 24 hours.

The above details are mandatory to do the payments.

## **II. RTPCR Laboratory network**

### **A. RTPCR laboratories capacity in the Government sector**

- i. There are 25 RTPCR laboratories in the Government sector.
- ii. The health administration as per the present-day capacity of the laboratories shall do management of samples routing to Government Laboratories.



- iii. From the samples collected from the district through the department functionaries or walk-in patients in the Government laboratories shall be tested in Government laboratories as per the capacities of the Government laboratories in the district.

**B. RTPCR Mobile Laboratories procured by KMSCL on the outsource model.**

- i. The districts having increase in the infections, infection rate and active cases, more containment zones and clusters will get the RTPCR Mobile laboratory deployed to do a greater number of tests so as to get the positive patients quickly on the treatment.
- ii. The RTPCR Mobile laboratory team shall be shown the identified areas to get the beneficiaries for taking the samples. The field unit to facilitate the beneficiaries. The RTPCR mobile laboratory need to ensure collection of samples, testing, result uploading etc as mentioned above. It is the responsibility of RTPCR mobile laboratory to collect the optimal samples from the identified areas.
- iii. The testing of the priority segments elderly and people with morbidity, people from containment zone, clusters, work places, primary contacts of the known positive, all ILI persons with negative Antigen test results to be tested with RTPCR. In this way the additional samples the RTPCR Mobile Laboratories will be directly collected from the field.
- iv. If the samples collected in the district are over and above the optimal capacity of Government run laboratories in the district, these samples can be sent across to the RTPCR Mobile Laboratories.
- v. The testing of all international travellers at the airport is mandatory as per the Min of H&FW Govt of India guidelines dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- vi. RTPCR Mobile lab shall first take samples from the identified field by the administration. If there is a gap, then only they will be allowed to take samples from the airport International travellers to make up number of samples 1800 per day.
- vii. It may be noted that the RTPCR Mobile laboratory is procured to provide total solution i.e going at site, taking sample, doing RTPCR test, uploading data in Laboratory Diagnosis Management System and giving result to the persons and doing waste disposal. They will submit the number of beneficiaries, name, mobile phone, test,



- result details and other details to KMSCL to establish that they have tested Government sponsored beneficiaries.
- viii. KMSCL shall provide the contract agreement done with all the RTPCR mobile laboratories and RTPCR laboratories ( Static) to the district health administration for their information.
  - ix. Facilitation may be done to ensure that the contracted agencies establish the sample collection kiosks at the airport.
  - x. While reporting the International Travellers samples taken at the Airport, the Laboratories shall inform the details regarding the flight, date of journey, mobile number etc. Without the evidence of the International travel the cost of the test shall not be reimbursed to any of the Laboratories.
  - xi. The details of the tests done by RTPCR Mobile Laboratories shall be done through Lab Diagnosis Management System including SRF generation and the results shall be uploaded at the earliest and not later than 24 hrs so that the positive patients can be picked up the surveillance team in real time.
  - xii. The details will be cross verified with the LSDMS portal and Flight rolls. Accordingly, the payment shall be done to the laboratories by KMSCL after ascertaining that the beneficiaries are sponsored by the Government.

**C. RTPCR laboratories (Static) willing to do test at Rs 448/-per test and contracted by KMSCL.**

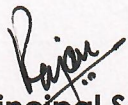
- i. The already empanelled RTPCR laboratories have expressed their willingness to conduct tests especially at Airports at the same rate i.e. Rs 448/- as quoted by Mobile RTPCR laboratories. This is inclusive of all cost for sample collection, transportation, testing, data uploading, waste disposal etc.
- ii. In order to ensure that the RTPCR tests are done with time efficiency and accuracy, such Laboratories shall be contracted by KMSCL. The concerned Laboratories to comply with the formalities of contracting and the statutory documentation.
- iii. The RTPCR Laboratory ( Static) shall be allowed upon entering into contract with KMSCL for testing of international passengers at the airports. They shall follow the same procedure of registering the patient, filling all the details, putting up the results in LDMS. They shall give daily report of the beneficiary list with the required flight details to establish the international travel status and that will be cross verified with the flight rolls.



- iv. The details of the tests done by RTPCR Mobile Laboratories shall be done through Lab Diagnosis Management System including SRF generation and the results shall be uploaded at the earliest and not later than 24 hrs so that the positive patients can be picked up the surveillance team in real time.
  - v. While reporting the International Travellers samples taken at the Airport, the Laboratories shall inform the details regarding the flight, date of journey, mobile number etc. Without the evidence of the International travel the cost of the test shall not be reimbursed to any of the Laboratories.
- III. The testing done by the RTPCR Mobile Laboratories, RTPCR Static Laboratories of the "Government sponsored beneficiaries" from the field and the Airport related information shall be properly forwarded daily to KMSCL for accounting and validation. KMSCL shall issue a separate detailed guideline as a part of the contract to all Laboratories.
- IV. KMSCL shall do the payment after validating international traveller status, flight details and test details in LDMS to do payment Rs 448/- per test and after ascertaining that the beneficiary is Government sponsored. The payment shall be done monthly to the Laboratories.

In this way, the district health administration may do proper management of RTPCR testing by ensuring that -

- a. the Government Laboratories are getting the sample as per their capacities.
- b. The RTPCR mobile laboratories are going at the identified sites and collecting 1800 samples per day and complete the testing within 24 hrs and comply with all the contract conditions.
- c. International Travellers samples taken by the RTPCR laboratories ( Static) shall complete the testing within 24 hrs and comply with all the contract conditions.

  
**Principal Secretary**



The deployment plan of the first 7 mobile labs are given in the below table.

S/n	Date of deployment	District Name
1	26.02.2021	Thiruvananthapuram
2	02.03.2021	Ernakulam and Malappuram
3	04.03.2021	Kozhikode and Kannur
4	05.03.2021	Kottayam and Kollam

TYPE OF SAMPLES (FOR RTPCR)	FIRST OPTION	SECOND OPTION	THIRD OPTOIN
ROUTINE SAMPLES	GOVT. RTPCR LABS IN THE DISTRICT	MOBILE RTPCR LABS	
AIRPORT SURVEILLANCE SAMPLES	GOVT. RTPCR LABS IN THE DISTRICT	EMPANELLED RTPCR LABS ( Static)	MOBILE RTPCR LABS
WALK IN SAMPLES	Either Govt of Private labs as per the client's preference		