

## THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR)

Notification/Circular Date	Notification/Circular No.	Title (Link) of Notification/Circular and Description
<b>Advisory on CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) technology-based SARS-COV-2 test</b>		
22.10.2020	-	<i>ICMR published the advisory in relation to CRISPR SARS CoV-2 test which is a new diagnostic method based on CRISPR-Cas9 technology to identify and target the genetic material of SARS-CoV-2 virus.</i>
<b>Advisory for use of Cartridge Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test</b>		
15.10.2020	-	<i>ICMR published the advisory for use of Cartridge Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test.</i>
<b>Establishment of a Network of Biorepositories in India</b>		
23.07.2020	-	<i>ICMR published this documents to: (i) establish organized and dedicated bio-repositories of well characterized clinical samples of COVID-19 patients; (ii) judiciously use these samples to promote research and development towards indigenous diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines in line with the "make in India" initiative; (iii) promote Indian academia, industry and commercial entities for developing novel solutions for COVID19 prevention, control and treatment; and (iv) conduct research to better understand the COVID19 disease in the Indian scenario.</i>
<b>Enhancement of Testing Capacity</b>		
17.07.2020	DO No.R.15015/01/2020-HR	<i>ICMR wrote a letter to all the state health and family welfare to increase the capacity of testing for covid-19.</i>
<b>Letter from ICMR to States and UTs for District wise Login Credentials for Rapid Antigen Testing for COVID 19</b>		
16.07.2020	DO No. ECD/COVID-19/Misc./2020	<i>ICMR published the algorithm for COVID-19 testing using rapid antigen point of care test.</i>
<b>Expedited Approval of TrueNat / CBNAAT for COVID-19 Testing in Private Labs /Hospitals</b>		
03.07.2020	D.O.No.ECD/COVID19/Misc./2020	<i>ICMR published a notification by virtue of which all private laboratories in who intend to initiate TrueNat/ CBNAAT based testing for COVID-19 should be encouraged to immediately apply for NABL accreditation. All the labs who have applied can reach out to ICMR (at aqoarwal.n@icmr.oov.in) with a copy of their NABL application, ICMR will provide expedited approval for T TrueNat/ CBNAAT subject to NABL approval, which can be submitted within a maximum time span of four weeks from the date of approval.</i>
<b>Letter to Chief Secretary/ Administrator/ Advisor to Governor/ Advisor to Lt. Governor for Empowering Citizens for</b>		

## Testing of SARS-CoV-2 Virus to Save Precious Lives and Contain the virus

01.07.2020

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*Prof. (Dr.) Balram Bhargava, Director General ICMR and Preeti Sudan, Secretary wrote a joint letter chief secretaries / administrators / advisor to Governor / Lt. Governor in relation to empowering citizens for testing of SARS-CoV-2 virus to save lives and contain the spread of virus.*

## Guidelines for Storage of Respiratory Specimens Collected for COVID-19 Diagnosis by RT PCR Platforms in Government Laboratories

25.06.2020

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*ICMR provided a detailed guidelines for storage of respiratory specimens collected for COVID-19 diagnosis by RT PCR platforms in government laboratories.*

## Newer Additional Strategies for COVID-19 Testing

23.06.2020

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*ICMR published the newer additional strategies to improve the access and availability of testing in various parts of the country.*

## Guidance for Evaluation of Novel Applications for COVID-19

18.06.2020

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*ICMR published the detailed list of identified institutions from each department along with the contact details of the nodal person for evaluating the antiviral properties of investigational products / repurposed drugs / devices / technologies, etc*

## Strategy for COVID-19 Testing in India

18.06.2020

Version 5

*ICMR published the 5th version of the testing strategy.*

## Advisory on Use of Rapid Antigen Detection Test for COVID-19

14.06.2020

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*ICMR published the advisory note on use of rapid antigen detection test for COVID-19.*

## Guidelines for Validation and Batch Testing of COVID-19 Diagnostic Kits

04.06.2020

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*ICMR published the guidelines for validation and batch testing of COVID-19 diagnostic kits.*

## Establishing of a Network of Biorepositories in India

23.05.2020

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*The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare published a guidance note for establishing a network of biorepositories in India.*

## Revised Advisory on the use of Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) as Prophylaxis for SARS-CoV-2 Infection



22.05.2020 — *ICMR published the revised advisory on the use of Hydroxychloroquine as Prophylaxis for SARS-CoV-2 Infection.*

#### **How India Ramped up COVID-19 Testing Capacity**

20.05.2020 — *ICMR published a press note specifying that how India ramped up its COVID-19 testing capacity.*

#### **Standard Guidelines for Medico-Legal Autopsy in COVID-19 Deaths in India 2020**

19.05.2020 — *ICMR published these guidelines to: (a) provide standard operating procedure for autopsy in COVID-19 cases; (b) recommend bio-safety precautions for forensic pathologists, health care workers, mortuary technicians/ staff, relatives, crematorium/ burial staff handling COVID-19 dead bodies; (c) provide guidelines for safe and dignified management of COVID-19 dead bodies, encompassing preservation, transportation and disposal; (d) disinfectant and sanitize mortuary; and (e) provide future deliberation on bio-safety guidelines / required resources for safe medical autopsy and research in COVID-19 cases.*

#### **Revised Guidelines for TrueNat testing for COVID-19**

19.05.2020 — *The TrueNat system is now a comprehensive assay for screening and confirmation of COVID-19 cases. ICMR published the revised guidelines for TrueNat testing for COVID-19.*

#### **FAQs for Patients with Hypertension, Diabetes and Heart Diseases in view of Coronavirus/COVID-19 Pandemic**

— — *ICMR has published these FAQs for patients with hypertension, diabetes, and heart diseases.*

#### **Revised Strategy for COVID-19 Testing in India**

18.05.2020 Version 5 *ICMR has published the 5th version of the strategy for COVID-19 testing in India.*

#### **Guidance for Appropriate Recording of COVID-19 Related Deaths in India**

10.05.2020 — *ICMR has published the guidance document to list down the process to be followed for appropriate recording of COVID-19 related deaths in India.*

#### **Standard Guidelines for Medico-Legal Autopsy in COVID-19 Deaths in India**

10.05.2020 — *ICMR has published the guidelines to list down the process to be followed in medico-legal autopsy in COVID-19 deaths in India.*



## **Advisory for Use of Cartridge Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (CBNAAT) using Cepheid Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV2**

09.05.2020

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*ICMR's recommendation for any testing laboratories to carry out Cartridge Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (CBNAAT) using Cepheid Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV2, only under Biosafety 2 level (BSL-2) conditions and with appropriate biosafety precautions.*

## **National Guidelines for Ethics Committees Reviewing Biomedical & Health Research During COVID-19 Pandemic**

08.05.2020

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*ICMR has published these guidelines, highlighting the important and facilitatory role that the ethics committee will have to play in the ethical conduct of research in India.*

## **Effective Use of 'Aarogyasetu' App for Breaking the Chain of Transmission of COVID-19**

05.05.2020

18/1/2020-Admn.II

*ICMR has issued the revised guidelines for usage of 'Arogya Setu' App by all the officers, staff (including outsourced employees) working with the central government.*

## **Attending the Office and Permission from Competent Authority**

03.05.2020

19/75/2019-Admn.I

*CDSCO has issued an order regarding co-ordination of ICMR's employees using DTDC buses in NCT Delhi.*

## **Constitution of a Committee to Look into the Issue for Applying Leave More Than 21 Days to Visit Abroad**

29.04.2020

16/42/2018-Admn.II

*CDSCO has issued an office memorandum to constitute a committee of: (a) Sr. DDG (A); (b) Sr. FA; (c) Dr. AM Khan, Head, ECD-II; (d) Dr. NC Jain, head HRD; and (e) Head of concerned division to look into any leave applied by any scientist / official for more than 21 days for personal foreign visit.*

## **Advisory on Rapid Antibody Blood Tests**

27.04.2020

ECD/COVID19/Misc./2020

*ICMR Advised State Governments to stop using kits procured from: (a) Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech; and (b) Zuhai Livzon Diagnostic.*

## **Office Order for Revised Guideline for Functioning of Office in View of Preventive Measures to Contain the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

21.04.2020

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*Office order to list down the norms for the following for functioning of office: (a) timings for employee; (b) social distancing; (c) use of private transport; (d) use of re-usable face covers; and (e) exception for employees who can work from home.*



## Order Regarding Functioning of Offices of Government of India, its Autonomous Bodies/ Subordinate offices w.e.f. 20/04/2020 Onwards

19.04.2020 --- *Office order to resume functioning of ICMR offices in NCT Delhi with effect from April 20, 2020 and the limited usage of DTC buses.*

## Additional Guidelines for Truenat™ testing for COVID-19

19.04.2020 --- *Procedure for registration of laboratories on ICMR portal for using Truenat™ t testing for COVID -19.*

## Advisory for Use of Cartridge Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (CBNAAT) using Cepheid Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV2

19.04.2020 --- *ICMR's recommendation for any testing laboratories to carry out Cartridge Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (CBNAAT) using Cepheid Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV2, only under Biosafety 2 level (BSL-2) conditions and with appropriate biosafety precautions.*

## Consolidated Information on Regional Depots for Storage and Transportation of COVID Kits

19.04.2020 --- *ICMR has consolidated the information on regional depots in relation to: (a) roles and responsibilities; (b) manpower structure; and (c) details of regional depots.*

## COVID-19 Testing Strategy for India

18.04.2020 --- *ICMR has issued strategy for COVID-19 testing to be used across the country. It states where Real-Time PCR (RT-PCR) test is to be used. It further informs the testing strategy to be adopted in hot spots.*

## Advisory on Feasibility of Using Pooled Samples for Molecular Testing of COVID-19

14.04.2020 --- *ICMR has issued advisory on feasibility to use the pooled samples for screening. A pooled testing algorithm involves the PCR screening of a specimen pool comprising multiple individual patient specimens, followed by individual testing (pool deconvolution) only if a pool screens positive. As all individual samples in a negative pool are regarded as negative, it results in substantial cost savings when a large proportion of pools tests negative*

## Guidance on the Use of Truenat™ Beta CoV

14.04.2020 --- *ICMR has issued guidance for usage of Truenat™ Beta CoV by the states only at the approved testing facilities and by qualified professionals.*

## Guidelines for Liver Transplantation and COVID-19



13.04.2020 --- *ICMR published the guidelines prepared by Liver Transplant Society of India, in view of rapidly changing scenario of COVID-19 infection in India*

#### **Guidance for Management of Pregnant Women in COVID-19 Pandemic**

12.04.2020 --- *ICMR has issued guidelines for healthcare facilities providing obstetric care for pregnant patients with confirmed novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) or pregnant persons under investigation in obstetric healthcare settings including obstetrical triage, labour and delivery, recovery and inpatient postpartum settings*

#### **Augmented Plan to Fast-Track the COVID-19 Testing Laboratory Scale-Up**

12.04.2020 --- *ICMR has taken cognizance of the need to expeditiously expand COVID-19 testing facilities in all parts of the country*

#### **Advisory for Sample Collection Sites**

11.04.2020 --- *ICMR has issued advisory on for sample collection site wherein:(a) the usage of personal protective equipment; (b) site disinfection; (c) implementation of biosafety and biosecurity precautions; (d) sample transportation, were discussed.*

#### **Strategy for COVID19 Testing in India (Ver. 4)**

09.04.2020 --- *ICMR has issued the revised strategy for COVID-19 testing in India.*

#### **India COVID-19 Clinical Research Collaborative Network**

06.04.2020 --- *ICMR has established the “India COVID-19 Clinical Research Collaborative Network” to enhance the clinical understanding of COVID-19 in the country so as to develop specific clinical management protocols and further R&D for therapeutics.*

#### **Advisory to Start Rapid Antibody Based Blood Test for COVID-19**

04.04.2020 --- *ICMR has issued the strategy for areas reporting clusters (containment zone) and in large migration gatherings/evacuees’ centres.*

#### **Advisory for Procurement of Reagents for Labs doing Real Time (RT)-PCR of Throat and Nasal Swab for diagnosis of COVID-19**

03.04.2020 --- *In order to ensure uninterrupted supply of reagents for COVID-19 testing, ICMR requested each state to identify a nodal officer to coordinate with the State Resident Commissioner stationed at Delhi for procurement /supply of reagents/primers/probes and other related supplies to respective ICMR recognized labs for the diagnosis of COVID-19 in their*



*states. All Private Labs and select Government labs not supported by ICMR will procure all reagents of their own.*

### **Advisory for ICMR Approved Private Labs that are Doing COVID 19 Testing by Real time RT-PCR**

03.04.2020

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*ICMR has formulated the advisory for ICMR approved private labs that are doing COVID 19 testing by Real time RT-PCR.*

### **AYUSH Advisory on Measures for Self-Care**

31.03.2020

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*ICMR published the AYUSH measures, that may contribute to the general wellbeing of individuals.*

### **ICMR - Guidelines for COVID-19 Testing in Private Labs**

21.03.2020

Z.28015/23/2020-EMR

*ICMR has issued the guidelines, according to which: (a) the laboratory should be NABL accredited for real-time PCR assay for RNA virus; (b) test should be conducted only when prescribed by qualified physicians as per the ICMR guidelines for COVID-19 testing; (c) sample preferably be collected from home to avoid contact with people; (d) only real time PCR based assays recommended should be used; (e) reporting protocol to be followed as laid down in guidelines; and (f) the Cost of testing should not exceed Rs. 4,500/-. However, ICMR encourage free or subsidized testing in this hour of Public Health Emergency.*

### **Office Order Regarding Research Studies on Mass Drug Administration**

20.03.2020

No.16/31/2020- Admn.II

*ICMR in order to generate evidence towards efficacy and effectiveness of Mass Drug Administration via scientifically robust studies and ethical review process that maintain high scientific standards.*

### **Office Order regarding Maintaining Appropriate Level of Arthropod Containment Laboratory in ICMR Institutes Working in Vector Borne Diseases**

20.03.2020

No.16/31/2020- Admn.II

*ICMR issued an office memorandum regarding maintaining appropriate level of arthropod containment of ACL I, II, III, and IV) for all its laboratory facilities that deal with pathogen infected or uninfected material and rely on feeding experiments in mosquitoes or otherwise.*

### **National Labs Identified for COVID-19 Testing to Remain Open all 7 Days a Week**

20.03.2020

F.No.R.15015/03/2020-HR

*Ministry of Health and Family Welfare decided that all the notified national labs for COVID -19 testing, including viral research and diagnostic laboratories and other labs, across country to remain open all 7 days a week*

### **Sentinel Surveillance to Detect Community Transmission of COVID-19**



19.03.2020 --- *ICMR has initiated sentinel surveillance to detect community transmission of COVID-19. The surveillance sites have been scaled up from 16 sites till Feb 29, 2020 to 51 sites by March 15, 2020*

#### **Guidance Document for State Nodal & Testing VRDLs for n-CoV**

19.03.2020 --- *ICMR has issued the guidance for State Nodal Laboratory for ensuring the collection and transport of suspected nCoV sample to ICMR-NIV, Pune*

#### **Home Quarantine of Symptomatic Will Flatten the Curve: Mathematical Modelling by ICMR**

19.03.2020 --- *ICMR has issued a paper to understand the spread of COVID-19 infection, and the mathematical modelling done by ICMR, in this regard.*

#### **Strategy of COVID19 Testing in India**

17.03.2020 --- *ICMR has issued the strategy to contain the spread of infection / community transmission of COVID19 by providing free of cost and reliable diagnosis to all individuals meeting the inclusion criteria of COVID19 testing.*

#### **COVID-19 Laboratory Preparedness in India**

06.03.2020 --- *ICMR has issued a note on COVID-19 Laboratory Preparedness in India.*

#### **Addendum to ICMR Guidelines for COVID-19 Testing in Private Laboratories in India**

06.03.2020 --- *ICMR has proposed the amendment to ICMR Guideline for COVID-19 Testing in Private Laboratories in India*

#### **Criteria for Initiation of Additional COVID-19 Testing Laboratories**

06.03.2020 --- *ICMR has formulated these guidelines for establishing a new testing laboratory for COVID-19 testing in any district in India.*

#### **Advisory for the DBT, DST, CSIR, DAE, ICAR, DRDO Labs**

06.03.2020 --- *ICMR has issued the advisory to DBT, DST, CSIR, DAE, ICAR and DRDO laboratories to ensure certain safeguards before initiation of COVID -19 testing.*

#### **Standard Operating Procedure For Detection Of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-Ncov) In Suspected Human Cases By Rrt-PCR: First Line Screening Assay**

--- --- *National Institute of Virology, ICMR has issued the standard operating procedure for detection of COVID- 19 in human clinical specimens.*



**Standard Operating Procedure For Detection of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Suspected Human Cases by rRT-PCR: confirmation Assay**

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*National Institute of Virology, ICMR has issued the standard operating procedure for detection of COVID- 19 in human clinical specimens.*

**Standard Operating Procedure For BGI**

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*ICMR has issued the standard operating procedure for usage of Real time Fluorescent RT-PCR kit, manufactured by BGI for detecting 2019-nCoV*

