



**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- APRIL 2021**

**No.13/31/F2/2020 Health- 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

The state is facing a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in many districts and targeted augmented strategy needs to be applied especially in high burden districts in order to test, track and treat, thereby curtail the resurgence. The objective is to identify additional cases of transmission in the community and aid in controlling the resurgence. The augmented testing strategy applied in March 2020 has contributed to controlling the first phase of the pandemic in Kerala.

The guidelines for the augmented testing strategy are as follows:

- The augmented testing strategy is to be applied in the days of **16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021** to test **2.5 lakh** people in the state.
- The target is 2.5 lakhs samples over 2 days.
- Both Rapid antigen and RTPCR tests may be used for the augmented testing strategy according to the availability of resources in the district.
- The District Surveillance Officers (COVID DSOs) may do the planning as follows:

Follow the principle of PRIORITIZATION of the segment and SAMPLE collection properly.

- All ILI symptomatic to be tested

**Irrespective of symptoms the following categories of peoples' samples to be collected -**

- All people less than 45 years and coming in contact with masses
- All people above 45 but not vaccinated
- All contacts of the known COVID positive
- All people participated in Electioneering activities
- All OPD patients in the Hospitals
- All IP in the Hospitals (As per the decision of treating Doctor)
- All people from the containment zones and clusters

- Use – RTPCR LAB infrastructure in Government and Private
- Use – ANTIGEN LAB infrastructure in Government and Private
  - Increase the samples from schools, colleges, offices, factories, industries, work places.
  - Engage with the private sector labs to perform COVID tests (Patients as per category, staff and visitors).
  - Promote health education messages to the general public in the district to solicit walk in COVID test
- The contact of positive cases should be quarantined and tested as per the testing guidelines.
- **Excluded population: The following set of population to be excluded**
  - a. COVID-19 recovered persons in the last 3 months are excluded to undergo RTPCR test unless symptomatic.
  - b. 2 dosages vaccinated asymptomatic population
- The District wise allocation of sample targets for the augmented testing strategy 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 is given in the Annexure. (Refer column -c)

The population is also urged to strictly adhere to COVID appropriate behaviour and follow the COVID protocol – Social distancing, wearing mask and hand hygiene.

  
**Principal Secretary**

Annexure

District (a)	Population (b)	Total target based on last 7 days + current target (c)
Thiruvananthapuram	3363436	22600
Kollam	2682314	15600
Pathanamthitta	1165687	9300
Alappuzha	2144869	14100
Kottayam	1993641	17800
Idukki	1091104	8100
Ernakulam	3449931	30900
Thrissur	3259823	21400
Palakkad	2995211	15600
Malappuram	4608265	26200
Kozhikode	3286453	31400
Wayanad	852304	6500
Kannur	2631208	19500
Kasaragod	1408175	11000
<b>Total</b>	<b>34932423</b>	<b>250000</b>

*P. M. S.*