



**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA**

**Abstract**

Health & Family Welfare Department - Refixing the rate for RT PCR test for COVID19 - Sanction Accorded - Orders issued.

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**HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (F) DEPARTMENT**

**G.O.(Rt)No.980/2021/H&FWD** Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 30/04/2021

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Read 1 G.O.(Rt)No. 12/2021/H&FWD dated. 01/01/2021

2 Judgement of Hon'ble High Court, Kerala in WP(C) No.255/2021 (F) dated 14/01/2021

3 G.O.(Rt) No. 371/2021/H&FWD dated 08.02.2021.

**ORDER**

Real Time PCR test is the gold standard for the diagnosis of COVID19 as per ICMR guidelines. In the month of February 2020, only imported kits were available for Covid- 19 diagnosis and there were only very few companies globally supplying the kits and consumables. Initially ICMR has approved only 3 companies for the supply of PCR kits required for COVID19 diagnosis. Gradually the situation improved, more firms started manufacturing these kits and different types of tests were approved by ICMR and rates came down. Subsequently after doing a thorough market analysis through its procurement agency KMSCL (Kerala Medical Services Corporation Limited), Government have fixed the rates of RT PCR test through approved Private Labs as Rs. 1500 as per Government Order read as 1<sup>st</sup> paper above.

2. Against this Private Labs approached Hon'ble High court and as per the Judgement read above , Government heard the petitioners and as per Government Order read as 3<sup>rd</sup> paper above the rate of RT PCR test through private labs has been revised to Rs.1700/- .

3. Mean while , Government in a view to increase the number of COVID RT PCR tests, decided to explore the possibilities for the procurement of Mobile RT PCR lab services from the private agencies to do the services such as visiting the identified sites, to collect the samples of the identified segments, to do testing and data transfer to the Lab Diagnosis Management system and to do

testing by RT PCR technology. The rates arrived by KMSCL for doing RT PCR tests through Static and Mobile RT PCR labs is Rs.448.20/- per test. In the meantime as part of Airport surveillance strengthening, KMSCL and District Administration explored the possibilities of engaging Private (Static Labs) labs for doing RT PCR in the same rates of Rs 448.22/- per test. There are 10 Static Labs (Private) across the State which are doing the RT PCR tests including the sample collections and biomedical waste management along with LDMS portal updation in 24 Hrs @448.20/-per test. As per the latest market rates of the VTM, RNA Extraction kits, PCR test kits and consumables arrived through market analysis, it is understood that the direct cost for kits and consumables (excluding HR and Other overheads) per test shall be in the range of **Rs.135 to 240/-**. While going through the cost per test for RT PCR through Private Labs in other States with similar or lesser case load , it was obvious that the rates in Haryana, Telangana, Uttarakhand are **Rs. 500/-** and **Rs. 400/-** in case of Odisha.

4. Government examined the current market rates of VTM, RNA Extraction kits, PCR test Kits and other consumables for the RTPCR test and compared the Cost per test in Private Labs for RT PCR in other States , the cost per tests agreed by the 10 Static Labs engaged in Airport Surveillance and 10 Mobile RT PCR labs deployed in Districts in detail.

5. In the above circumstances , Government are pleased to revise the cost per test for RT PCR to **Rs 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only )** with immediate effect.

(By order of the Governor)  
**RAJAN NAMDEV KHOBRADE**  
**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**

To:

The State Mission Director, National Health Mission, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director of Health Services, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director of Medical Education, Thiruvananthapuram

The Managing Director, Kerala Medical Services Corporation Ltd.

The Advocate General of Kerala,Office of Advocate General, Kochi(with C/L)

All District Collectors

All District Medical Officers

Principal Accountant General (A&E/Audit) Kerala.

Information & Public Relations (Web & New Media) Department

Stock File/ Office Copy to F2/8/2021-HEALTH

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer

Copy to : PS to the Hon'ble Minister(HEALTH)  
PA to Principal Secretary (Health)