



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

COVID-19 Testing Strategy for Kerala State

(Addendum to Testing Strategy for Kerala 35/31/F2/2020/Health -15th June 2021)

NO: 41/ 31/F2/2020/Health- 28th Aug 2021

- Many districts in Kerala have now achieved high vaccination levels with 71% of eligible population in the state having received the first dose. Considering vaccination coverage in the state, the following guidelines are issued to do Covid19 testing based on the vaccination coverage status of the districts, to identify the most at risk population to obtain accurate measure of the prevalence of disease in the community.
- All districts shall increase sentinel and random surveillance samples based on the assessment of the COVID situation in the district.
- All districts shall take random samples appropriately to assess the new foci of infections and clustering of cases.

Clause	SETTING	TESTING STRATEGY	TYPE OF TEST
1	Districts with High COVID-19 Vaccination coverage (≥80% with 1st dose)	-Prompt testing of all symptomatic persons (Mild sore throat, cough / rhinitis /diarrhoea/anosmia) at the earliest and feasible point of contact with a health care provider	RTPCR
		Surveillance Samples As per the existing guidelines of sentinel surveillance, increase sentinel samples (random samples from the community); shops, malls, offices and establishments, transit sites, health care setting and among people with high social exposure-District surveillance unit may decide appropriate sample size of the day as per the situation of pandemic in the district.	RAT

		<p>Random Samples As per the assessment of situation of the pandemic in the district, the district surveillance unit may decide appropriate number of random samples for doing testing to identify the new foci of infections and clusters of cases.</p>	RAT
2A	Other Districts; Local self-government (Panchayaths and Urban local bodies) with vaccination coverage $\geq 80\%$;	-Follow the same strategy as in clause 1 above.	
2B	Other Districts; Local self-government bodies (Panchayaths and Urban bodies) with vaccination coverage $< 80\%$	- Follow existing testing guidelines No 35/31/F2/2020/Health -dated 15 th June 2021	
	<p><u>Testing Exclusion criteria –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asymptomatic individuals who have taken 2 doses of vaccine and completed 2 weeks post 2nd dose of vaccines. ● Covid Positive individuals within 2 months of positivity 		

Other instructions:

1. The District Surveillance units will properly allocate collected samples in the district to licensed Government RTPCR Laboratories and Private Mobile Laboratories or Static Private Laboratories in such a way that all the laboratories will be able to test properly on the same day and the results shall be uploaded on the same day within 12 hours. The charges to be paid to the private mobile laboratories or static private laboratories will be as per the stipulated rates in the Guidelines 40/31/F2/2020-Health & Family Welfare dated 28th Aug 2021.

2. All test results (positive and negative) are to be uploaded on the online portal for COVID test results (Lab Diagnosis Management System portal) on the same day without delay.
3. Private Laboratories shall ensure that the tests are done as per the guidelines based on the prescription of registered doctors within the state of Kerala. The District Health Authorities shall undertake inspections to ensure testing is done as per the stipulated guidelines.
4. The District Health Authorities shall undertake inspection of laboratories to verify that both positive and negative results are uploaded regularly without any delay. The Licences of laboratories identified having pendency of COVID test results (positive or negative) in the LDMS shall be revoked.
5. The District Health Authorities shall conduct regular quality audit of Antigen and RTPCR test kits from the laboratories and take appropriate actions based on the results.


PRINCIPAL SECRETARY