



Government of Karnataka

No. HFW 167 ACS 2020

Karnataka Government Secretariat  
Vidhana Soudha  
Bengaluru, dated 21.05.2020.

ORDER

**Subject: Revised Lab Testing Protocol- Karnataka**

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Orders have been issued from time to time by Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare and Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare Services regarding lab testing protocols for COVID- 19. In view of recent revision of protocol by ICMR-GOI and evolving situation of COVID-19 in the State, below revised guidelines are being issued superseding all the previous Circulars.

**I. Criteria for testing:**

1. Individuals who have undertaken international travel in last 14 days
  - a. If symptomatic (ILI symptoms) – tested immediately
  - b. If asymptomatic - to be tested as per SOP issued by the State Government
2. Contacts of Confirmed cases:
  - a. Primary Contacts (direct and high-risk contacts)
    - i. If symptomatic (ILI symptoms) - tested immediately
    - ii. If Asymptomatic- shall be tested once between day 5 and day 10 of coming into contact
  - b. Secondary (low risk contacts)
    - i. Should be tested only if symptomatic (ILI symptoms) – tested immediately
3. All symptomatic (ILI symptoms) Health Care Workers/ frontline workers involved in containment and mitigation of COVID-19 - tested immediately.
4. All patients of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) - tested immediately
5. All ILI patients from Containment zones and Buffer zones- tested immediately
6. Pregnant women:
  - a. Pregnant women from containment zone- to be tested once, 14 days before expected date of delivery
  - b. Pregnant women with symptoms of ILI/ SARI- to be tested immediately
7. All elderly persons (above 60 years of age) with ILI symptoms - tested immediately
8. All persons with **co-morbidity** (HIV, Tuberculosis, Cancer, Stroke, Dialysis, organ transplant, Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension and other immuno-compromised) and having **ILI symptoms** - tested immediately
9. Inter-state returnees/migrants
  - a. If symptomatic (ILI symptoms) - Test immediately

- b. If Asymptomatic-shall be tested once between day 5 and day 7 of arrival from high prevalence states (as notified from state government from time to time). List of such states as on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 is given in annexure with this order.

10. Suspected COVID-19 death with history of ILI/SARI symptoms- swab to be taken within 6 hours of death

## II. General Guidelines:

- ILI case is defined as one with acute respiratory infection with fever  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) AND cough
- SARI case is defined as one with acute respiratory infection with fever  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) AND cough AND requiring hospitalization
- All testing in the above categories is recommended by real time RT-PCR test only
- For RT-PCR test, both nasal swab and throat swab should be collected in one VTM tube and transported to testing lab in cold chain

## III. Categorization of samples for testing

The districts sending samples to various labs need to ensure that the samples are collected and sent in different boxes labelled as A, B and C which are to be categorized in the following manner

**Category A-** Serial number 1a, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9a, 10

**Category B-** Serial number 6, 7, 8

**Category C-** Serial number -1b and 9b.

## IV. Pooling of samples at testing labs

Pooling of 5 samples shall be done at testing labs for asymptomatic international and inter-state returnees (Category 'C' of III).

*Jawaid Akhtar* 21/5/20  
(Jawaid Akhtar)

Additional Chief Secretary to Government  
Health and Family Welfare Department and  
Medical Education Department.

To:

1. Commissioner, Health Family Services, Anand Rao circle, Bengaluru.
2. Mission Director, National Health Mission, Anand Rao circle, Bengaluru.
3. Director, Health Family Services, Anand Rao circle, Bengaluru.
4. Director, Medical Education Dept., Anand Rao circle, Bengaluru.
5. All Deputy Commissioners.
6. All CEOs of ZPs.
7. All District Health Officers.
8. All District Surgeons.
9. All Testing Labs of State.

Copy for kind information:

Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka.

### Annexure High Prevalence States as on 20/05/2020

1. Maharashtra
2. Tamilnadu
3. Gujarat
4. Delhi
5. Rajasthan
6. Madhya Pradesh