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Secretary



Government of Uttarakhand

Department of Medical, Health
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Letter No. 389/PS/Secy(H)/2021

Dated 07 May 2021

To,

Chief Medical Officer
All Districts, Uttarakhand.

Subject: Sample testing strategy Version 13.

Sir/Madam,

As we are aware that Covid-19 transmission is continuously going on. For adequate containment of COVID-19, regular strengthening of diagnostic capacity in the state is essential. Below is the updated COVID-19 sample testing strategy in the state Version 13:

S.N.	Name of Districts	Associated Laboratories For RTPCR	No. of samples/day
1	Haridwar	AIIMS Rishikesh	400
		Doon Medical College	1000
2.	US Nagar	JLN District Hospital Udham Singh Nagar	500
		MRU Lab, Govt. Medical College Haldwani	500
		NCDC Delhi	500
3	Tehri Garhwal	Srinagar Medical College	300
		Doon Medical College	300
		IIP Dehradun	200
4	Pauri Garhwal	Srinagar Medical College	500
		Doon Medical College	400
5	Dehradun	Doon Medical College	600
		AIIMS Rishikesh	1000
6	Chamoli	Srinagar Medical College	500
7	Rudraprayag	Srinagar Medical College	500
8	Uttarkashi	AIIMS Rishikesh	400
9	Nainital	Govt. Medical College Haldwani	800
		IVRI Mukteshwar	200
10	Almora	Govt. Medical College Almora	500
		IVRI Mukteshwar	300
11	Champawat	Govt. Medical College Haldwani	400
12	Bageshwar	Govt. Medical College Haldwani	400
13	Pithoragarh	Govt. Medical College Haldwani	400

- You are directed to send the samples mandatorily to above laboratories up to their daily capacity of sample testing/day as mentioned in table above.
- The Government labs are directed to maintain utmost care and caution to maintain full capacity 24x7.
- Over and above samples to the above mentioned capacity may be sent to Private laboratories selected as per Uttarakhand state procurement rules with clear MoU guided by procurement order.
- Additionally, the samples allocated to concerned lab for the respective district may be sent to Private lab on the day of fumigation of that lab, once it meets the capacity of other designated govt. labs to that district.
- If due to some unavoidable reasons any of the govt. labs closes down for a period, the samples allocated to that lab for the respective district may be sent to Private lab for that period, once it meets the capacity of other designated govt. labs to that district. The lab shall provide written communication to the concerned district regarding inability to test for the period

Updated guidance for sample testing shall be as below:

1. To optimize RTPCR testing and simultaneously increase the access and availability of testing to all citizen of state, ICMR GOI has recommended testing as below:
 - RTPCR test must not be repeated in any individual who has tested positive once either by RAT or RTPCR.
 - No testing is required for COVID-19 recovered individuals at the time of hospital discharge in accordance with discharge policy of MoH&FW (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/ReviseddischargePolicyforCOVID19.pdf>).
 - Non-essential travel and interstate travel of symptomatic individuals (COVID-19 or flu like symptoms) should be essentially avoided to reduce the risk of infection.
 - All asymptomatic individuals undertaking essential travel must follow COVID appropriate behavior.
2. As we are aware that RTPCR testing has a limited capacity, and in current scenario of covid-19 transmission increased testing is one of the key intervention to early detect infection for timely and adequate treatment. ICMR, GOI has recommended Rapid antigen tests (RATs) for strengthening testing capacity. RAT has a short turnaround time of 15-30 minutes and thus offers a huge advantage of quick detection of cases and opportunity to isolate and treat them early for curbing transmission. To meet the overwhelming testing demand, it will be prudent to upscale testing using RATs. As per ICMR guidelines (**enclosed**) it is suggested:
 - i. RAT may be allowed at all available Government and private healthcare facilities.
 - ii. Set up dedicated RAT booths in cities, towns and villages to offer testing to people.
 - iii. Testing booths may be set up at multiple locations including healthcare facilities, RWA, offices, schools, colleges, community centers and other available vacant spaces.
 - iv. These booths may be operational on a 24X7 basis to improve access and availability of testing.
 - v. Drive-through RAT testing facilities may be created at convenient locations as identified by local administration
 - vi. Mobile Van based RAT testing services may be utilized for testing at containment zones, borders etc.
 - vii. Stringent measures must be instituted to avoid overcrowding at RAT testing facilities
 - viii. RAT testing must be conducted in compliance with the ICMR advisory available at: https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/strategy/Testing_Strategy_v6_04092020.pdf
 - ix. Symptomatic individuals identified positive by RAT should not be re-tested
 - x. Symptomatic individuals identified negative by RAT should be linked with RTPCR test
 - xi. All RTPCR and RAT test results should be uploaded on ICMR portal at: <https://cvstatus.icmr.gov.in>
3. Ensure availability of at least one TrueNat machine per block, one TrueNat machine per sub district Hospital, two TrueNat machine per district Hospital in the district.
4. Testing of all high risk contacts is mandatory.
5. All vulnerable population like slum dwellers, congregate settings, hoteliers, shop keepers and other specific population shall be tested in systematic time bound manner with a comprehensive planning.

As we are aware that for routine infection control, the Covid 19 testing laboratories undergoes fumigation process for one day. The schedule of fumigation day of Covid 19 labs operational in state is given in table below.

S.No.	Laboratory	Day of fumigation
1	Govt. Medical College Haldwani	Sunday
2	Doon Medical College Dehradun	Thursday
3	Srinagar Medical College	Monday
4	IVRI Mukteshwar	Monday
5	IIP Dehradun	Sunday
6	JLN District Hospital Udham Singh Nagar	Saturday
7	MRU Lab, Govt. Medical College Haldwani	Sunday
8	Govt. Medical College Almora	Sunday

You all are requested to take necessary actions accordingly.

Thanking You

YK
7/5/24

(Dr. Pankaj Kumar Pandey)

Enclosure:A/a

Letter No.

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Medical Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Uttarakhand.
2. Director General, Medical Health and Family Welfare, Uttarakhand.
3. Director, AIIMS Rishikesh Dehradun.
4. Director, Medical Education, Uttarakhand.
5. Mission Director, National Health Mission, Uttarakhand.
6. All District Magistrate, Uttarakhand.
7. Officer Incharge, IDSP, National Health Mission Uttarakhand.
8. All Lab Incharges.

YK

(Dr. Pankaj Kumar Pandey)