No.2PM(COVID)/2020/ 3029-3228 

Dh 29/3/2020

From

Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Haryana.
Health Department

To

1. All the Heads of Departments, Haryana.
2. The Commissioners Ambala, Hisar, Rohtak & Gurugram Division.
3. The Registrar, Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh.
4. All the Deputy Commissioners in Haryana.
5. All the Sub-Division Officers (Civil) in Haryana
6. All the Civil Surgeons of the State.

Dated: 29.03.2020

Subject: Designating of Private Labs for COVID-19 testing in Haryana—regarding

Sir/Madam,

I have been directed to draw your kind attention to the cited subject and state that Government has decided to designate Private Labs for the testing of COVID-19 suspected cases. It is intimated that the said private Labs have been approved by Indian Council of Medical Research, Department of Health Sciences, Govt. of India (ICMR). The rates of COVID-19 testing and guidelines for identifying the suspects, collection of samples, transportation of samples, testing at labs i.e. screening test and confirmatory test, storage & destruction of samples, reporting, etc. would apply to these private Labs as issued by ICMR, MoHFW (Gol) and amended from time to time (Annexure-A). This has been done as part of preparedness for the impending surge of huge number of suspects, as it has been witnessed in other countries w.r.t COVID-19 epidemic.

The details of private Labs are as follows:

1. Strand Life Sciences, A-17, Sector-34, Gurugram.
2. SRL Limited, GP26, Sector-18, Gurugram.

General Guidelines:

1. The private labs shall carry out COVID-19 testing as ICMR, MoHFW (Gol) guidelines.
2. The private labs shall intimate Health Department, through concerned Civil Surgeon, regarding each and every suspected case for which sample has been received/taken in the lab, with details of address,
contact details, name & details of referring physician, etc. and report each positive case immediately to concerned Civil Surgeon.

3. The private labs shall not charge the patients referred by private physicians over and above the charges as fixed by ICMR i.e. 4500/- including 1500/- for screening test and 3000/- for confirmatory test.

4. The private labs shall reserve up to 50% of their testing capacity for samples to be referred from Govt. Health facilities, as per requirement, through Civil Surgeons of the State, and submit their bills as per the rates fixed by ICMR to concerned Civil Surgeons.

5. The Private physicians shall intimate Health Department through concerned Civil Surgeon regarding each and every suspected case referred for COVID-19 testing/ for which sample has been sent to the private lab, with details of address, contact details, etc. and similarly intimate each positive for COVID-19 case.

6. The Civil Surgeons of the State may send samples of suspected cases for COVID-19 testing to these private labs only in the case when the testing capacity of Govt. labs exhausts.

29.3.2020

Director General Health Services, Haryana
for: Additional Chief Secretary, Haryana Govt.
(Health Department)

Endst.No.2PM(COVID)/2020/ 3229- 32 , Dated: 29.03.2020

A copy is forwarded to the following for kind information:
1. PS to Hon’ble Chief Minister, Haryana
2. PS to Hon’ble Health Minister, Haryana.
3. PS to Worthy Chief Secretary to Govt. of Haryana.
4. PS/ACS (Health)
5. PS/ASH

29.3.2020

Director General Health Services, Haryana
for: Additional Chief Secretary, Haryana Govt.
(Health Department)
ORDER

The guidelines laid down by Indian Council of Medical Research for COVID-19 testing in private laboratories in India (as annexed) is notified vide Clause (i) and (l) of sub-section 2 of Section 10 of DM Act, 2005, under the power delegated vide order F. NO. 40-2/2020-DM1 (A); dated 11th March, 2020 for strict follow up and compliance.

President
Secretary,
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India
Guidelines for COVID-19 testing in private laboratories in India

The test to be conducted by a laboratory which has NABL accreditation for real-time PCR assay for RNA virus.

Whom to test:

Laboratory test should only be offered when prescribed by a qualified physician as per the ICMR guidelines for COVID-19 testing. Since the guidance evolves periodically, the latest revised version should be followed (link below).


Sample collection and Testing guidelines:

- Appropriate biosafety and biosecurity precautions should be ensured while collecting respiratory samples (oropharyngeal and nasal swab) from a suspect patient. Alternatively, a COVID-19 specific separate sample collection site may be created.
- Preferably, home collection of samples may be done by all the private laboratories. This will help avoid the contact of people with the suspect case during local travel to reach the laboratory.
- Only real time PCR based assays are recommended. Conventional PCR, in-house real time PCR and antibody/antigen tests are not recommended for COVID19 testing.
- Commercial kits for real time PCR based diagnosis of COVID-19 should be US FDA approved or European CE Certified or both for in vitro diagnosis of COVID-19 under emergency use, under intimation to DCGI, MoHFW. Nucleic acid extraction kits and other reagents should be of standard quality.
- All the laboratory staff involved in COVID-19 testing should be appropriately trained in Good Laboratory Practices and performing real-time PCR.
- The sample should be opened only in Biosafety Cabinet Class II A2. At the time of sample disposal, the Viral Transport Medium (VTM) with swabs should be discarded in a biohazard bag containing 2% Lyzol or 5% freshly prepared hypochlorite solution.
Bag should then be sealed using plastic tag and disposed of in accordance with the National guidelines.

- Government ID to support the current address and contact number of the suspect patient should be collected at the time of sample collection.

**Reporting protocols:**

- Before any laboratory (private or public) start their activities, they must ensure immediate/real time reporting of the test results along with the contact details to the ICMR HQ database accessible at https://cvstatus.icmr.org.in. Login credentials to each lab for uploading the data will be given by ICMR.
- Each laboratory will be given a registration number by ICMR. The registration number given by ICMR should be prominently exhibited in case any advertisement is made and also in the report.
- The access to specified data and analysis to stakeholders like IDSP, MoHFW will be provided through API for timely initiation of contact tracing and appropriate control measures.
- The request should be send at aggarwal.n@icmr.gov.in indicating name, contact details and mobile number of nodal contact for the lab.

**Policy for sample storage and destruction:**

- All COVID19 positive samples will need to be transported to ICMR-NIV, Pune under suitable biosafety and biosecurity precautions as laid down by ICMR. The negative samples will be destroyed within one week of collection.
- No sample should be shared with any other organisation for any purpose.

**Cost of the test:**

The National Task Force recommends that the maximum cost for testing sample should not exceed Rs 4,500/- This may include Rs 1,500 as a screening test for suspect cases, and an additional Rs 3,000/- for confirmation test. However, ICMR encourages free or subsidized testing in this hour of National public health emergency.

These guidelines may be amended from time to time.