

Directorate of Health & Family Welfare
Government of Punjab
Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)
Parivar Kalyan Bhawan, Sector-34A, Chandigarh.
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No. COVID-19/NHM/Pb/20/ 5083-5126


Dated, Chandigarh: 07/09/2020

To

1. All the Deputy Commissioners of Punjab.
2. All the Civil Surgeons of Punjab.

Sub: Allowing Rapid Antigen Testing for COVID-19 by private hospitals/ clinics/ Labs in the State- Regarding.

This is with reference to the subject that with a view to strengthen screening of the population for timely detection of COVID-19 patients to contain the spread of pandemic, Department of Health and Family Welfare has decided to allow private hospitals/clinics/Labs to conduct Rapid Antigen Testing for COVID-19 after empanelment with District Health Authorities. RAT kits would be provided free of cost by the department. The Civil Surgeons will empanel those private hospitals/ clinics/ Labs who are willing to get empanelled voluntarily for offering testing by RAT kits provided free of cost by the Department. The private hospitals/labs can charge maximum Rs. 250/- from the patients. The private hospitals/labs will follow the attached SoPs (Annexure-A) for use of RAT kits provided free of cost by the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

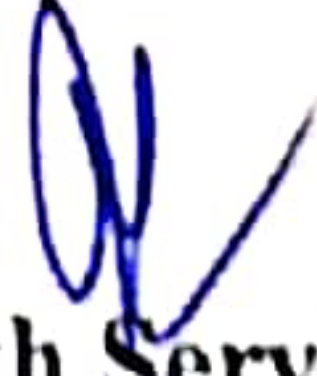

Director Health Services, Punjab

Endst. No. COVID-19/NHM/Pb/20/

Dated, Chandigarh:

Copy is forwarded to:-

1. Chief Secretary, Punjab for information please
2. Principal Secretary, Medical Education and Research, Punjab for information please
3. Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Punjab for information please.
4. Mission Director, National Health Mission, Punjab for information please.


Director Health Services, Punjab

Annexure 'A'

Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for RAT kit provided free by the Department of Health and Family Welfare to private hospitals/Labs

- A) The private hospitals/clinics and Labs should have a separate isolated area for the suspected patients of COVID-19 where sample will be taken. The person taking samples will ensure complete Personal Protective Gear. The institution should have an arrangement of biomedical waste management generated by the test as per the guidelines.
- B) All rapid antigen test results are entered into the ICMR portal using the login ID credentials provided by the Department.
- C) For all Asymptomatic High risk Contact of positive case and symptomatic persons, who are negative by rapid antigen test, another NP/OP swab to be collected in VTM should be sent to the identified real-time RT-PCR laboratory for COVID-19 testing as soon as possible. The private hospital shall arrange the required logistics for such samples pack them and send to the RT-PCR testing Lab. The same can be sent to nearest Government Health facility as per protocol.
- D) The samples sent by empanelled private hospitals/ clinics shall be tested free of cost at Government Labs.
- E) The patient ID, Patient name and Contact number used for rapid antigen testing should be communicated to the attached RT-PCR COVID-19 testing lab along with the SRF ID so that RT-PCR results can be uploaded into ICMR portal as a follow-up entry for the antigen test. Please ensure a new patient ID/SRF ID is not registered for the follow up RT PCR test.
- F) They shall fill in the details as per ICMR Protocol in RT-PCR App. The user name and passwords for the same shall be provided by respective Civil Surgeons for collection centers to empanelled private hospitals/clinics/Lab.
- G) The private hospitals/ clinics/Labs availing this facility shall not charge more than Rs 250/- from patients for Rapid Antigen Testing.
- H) The lab shall submit details of samples collected by them and line list of testing and results to the respective Civil Surgeon of the district with a copy to State IDSP unit at Punjab.idsp@gmail.com and pocantigenpunjab@gmail.com.
- I) Maintain inventory of RAT kits received and utilize and submit utilization certificate while claiming replenishment of supplies
- J) Strictly maintain the confidentiality of patient data.

K) In the remark's column in RT-PCR App, please add your institute/Lab name.

L) The protocol for testing by Rapid Antigen kits:

a. Patient selection/prioritization:

1. Any person walking in willing to get COVID-19 testing done voluntarily
2. Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI patients)
3. Symptomatic high-risk contacts of COVID-19 positive patients
4. 100 % RAT testing in the containment and micro-containment zones.
5. Asymptomatic direct and high risk contacts of a confirmed case to be tested once between day 5 and day 10 of coming into contact. If tested negative, RT-PCR to be done for such persons.
6. Asymptomatic patients who are hospitalized or seeking hospitalization.
7. Elderly patients (>more than 60 years of age) with co-morbidities. (Lung disease, Heart disease, Liver disease, Kidney disease etc.
8. Asymptomatic patients undergoing surgical/ non- surgical interventions:
 - a. Elective/ emergency surgical procedures
 - b. Non-surgical interventions like bronchoscopy, Upper GI endoscopy and dialysis.
9. Frontline health workers (Doctors, Nurses, Paramedical staff, Field staff, ANMs , ASHA etc.)
10. Essential service providers like sanitary workers, Police officials and other administrative officials etc.
11. Pregnant women approaching health facilities for labour
12. Outdoor patients in health facilities.
13. Vegetable vendors, market labourers, shop-keepers, persons residing in high risk/crowded locations like slums, etc.

The interpretation of results will be as follows:

