



Dated: 11/06/2020

Revised guidelines for positive sample storage by ICMR approved private labs that are doing COVID-19 testing by Real time RT-PCR/CB-NAAT/TrueNat

1. All private labs that are doing COVID-19 testing by Real time RT-PCR/CB-NAAT/TrueNat are to send all positive samples to NIV, Pune as per earlier guidelines (Order no Z 28015/23/2020-EMR, dated 21st March 2020).
2. With the surge in testing across the country, the total number of positive samples has gone up considerably. Keeping this in view, ICMR advises of the following.
 - a) Labs that have been mapped with ICMR validation centres should periodically (on a regular basis) seek the requirements of these centres. The validation centres will tell labs that are mapped with them, to send the required number of positive and negative samples to help such centres validate different kits that become available for validation.
 - b) All labs will send 10 random positive and 5 random negative samples per month to QC labs. ICMR has mapped testing private labs to different QC labs (Annexure I). All testing labs will liaise with the recommended QC labs and will ensure regular participation in QC activity.
 - c) All testing labs will ensure storage of samples at -80C (or at least at -20C) and will ensure regular monthly transfer to QC labs. Don't forget to include your lab name and sample ID. While shipping, place samples in screw capped vials and proper Biosafety and Biosecurity precautions should be followed as per IATA.
 - d) In case of any discordance, additional 5 positive and 3 negative samples will need to be sent for QC check.
 - e) If QC results are concordant, all the samples will be destroyed and labs will keep record of destruction.
 - f) There is no need to send all positive samples to NIV, Pune.



Annexure I

QC lab	All private testing labs in
RMRC, Dibrugarh Contact: Dr. Biswa Borkakoty, Email: biswaborkakoty@gmail.com	Assam
SVMS, Tirupati Contact: Dr. Usha Kalawat, Email: ukalawat@yahoo.com	Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry
RMRIMS, Patna Contact: Dr. Pradeep das, Email: drpradeep.das@gmail.com	Bihar
AIIMS, New-Delhi Contact: Dr. Lalit Dar, Email: lalitdaraiims@gmail.com	Delhi
BJMC, Ahmedabad Contact: Dr. M.M. Vegad, Email: mahendravegad@rediffmail.com	Gujarat
BPS, Sonapat Contact: Dr. Sarita Yadav, Email: yadav78sarita@yahoo.com	Haryana
RIMS, Ranchi Dr. Manoj Kumar, Email: icmrvirologyrim@gmail.com	Jharkhand
AIIMS, Bhopal Dr. Debasis Biswas, Email: debasis.microbiology@aiimsbhopal.edu.in	Madhya Pradesh
NIV Field unit, Bengaluru Contact: Dr. Ashok Email: ashokmniv@gmail.com	Karnataka
NIV Field unit, Allapuzha Contact: A.P. Sugunan, Email: apsugunan@gmail.com	Kerala
Kasturba Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Mumbai. Contact: Dr. Jayanthi Shastri, Email: jsshastri@gmail.com	Mumbai
NIV, Pune Contact: Dr. Varsha Potdar Email: potdarvarsha9@gmail.com	Rest of Maharashtra



QC lab	All private testing labs in
RMRC, Bhubaneswar Contact: Dr. Jyoti Turuk Email: drjyotirmayuturuk@gmail.com	Odisha
PGI, Chandigarh Contact: Dr. Mini Singh Email: minipsingh@gmail.com	Punjab
GMC, Haldwani Contact: Dr. Vinita Rawat, Email: drvinitarawat@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
SMS Medical College, Jaipur Contact: Dr. Bharti Malhotra, Email: drbhartimalhotra@gmail.com	Rajasthan
KIPM, Chennai Contact: Dr. K. Kaveri, Email: kaveri_raj1967@yahoo.com	Tamilnadu
GMC, Secunderabad Contact: Dr. K. Nagamani, Email: nagamaniy2k03@rediffmail.com	Telangana
KGMU, Lucknow Contact: Dr. Amita Jain, Email: amita602002@yahoo.com	UP
NICED, Kolkata Contact: Dr. Shanta Dutta Email: shanta1232001@yahoo.co.in,	West Bengal