



## **ABSTRACT**

COVID-19 – Health and Family Welfare Department – Protocol for using Rapid Antibody Test in Hot spot area – Orders – Issued.

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### **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (P1) DEPARTMENT**

**G.O.(Ms).No. 198**

**Dated: 21.04.2020**  
**Sarvari, Chithirai – 8**  
**Thiruvalluvar Aandu – 2051.**

1. G.O.(Ms)No.164, Health and Family Welfare (P1) Department, dated: 31.03.2020.
2. G.O.(Ms)No.175, Health and Family Welfare (P1) Department, dated: 05.04.2020.
3. G.O.(Ms)No.176, Health and Family Welfare (P1) Department, dated: 05.04.2020.

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### **ORDER:**

In the Government order first read above, comprehensive instructions / guidelines to be followed in respect of COVID-19 patients, including setting up of screening centers, quarantine facilities, isolation facility, specimen collection procedures, Clinical Management, Disinfection procedure and Discharge policy to be followed by Government health facilities / private hospitals / testing labs and all stake holders have been communicated.

2. In the G.O. second read above, the Government have directed the Heads of department of Health and Family Welfare Department and all the District Collectors / Commissioner of Chennai Corporation to strictly follow the activities on the implementation of the Micro-Plan issued by the Government to ensure no further spread of COVID-19.

3. In the Government Order third read above, Government have issued additional disinfection procedures for prevention and transmission of COVID-19.

4. To control the spread of COVID-19 in Tamil Nadu, various activities are being taken by the Government. The enforcement of 144 and the lockdown measure as per the instructions of Government of India are being implemented in right spirit.

5. In continuation of the above, the Government hereby issues direction to all the concerned authorities in the State for the strict implementation of the enclosed Protocol for using Rapid Antibody Test in Hot spot area.

**(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)**

**BEELA RAJESH  
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

**To**

The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Chennai – 600 006.

The Director of Medical Education, Chennai – 600 010.

The Director of Medical and Rural Health Services, Chennai – 600 006.

All District Collectors.

**Copy to:**

The Mission Director, National Health Mission, Chennai – 600 006.

The Principal Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, Chennai – 600 009.

The Principal Private Secretary to Secretary II to Hon'ble Chief Minister,  
Chennai – 600 009.

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**//FORWARDED BY ORDER//**

  
21/4/2022  
**SECTION OFFICER**

**ANNEXURE**

**G.O.(Ms)No.198, Health and Family Welfare Department, dated:  
21.04.2020**

**Protocol for using Rapid Antibody Test in Hot spot area -  
epidemiological studies and surveillance**

**It is critical to understand the following key facts using rapid antibody tests: -**

- Gold standard frontline test for COVID-19 diagnosis is real time PCR based molecular test, which is aimed at early virus detection.
- The rapid antibody test cannot replace the frontline test.
- The Rapid Antibody Test is a supplementary tool to assess the prevalence of the diseases within a specific area / perimeter.
- The Rapid Antibody Test will only be of utility after a minimum of 7 days of onset of symptoms.
- Data about these rapid tests is emerging and understanding of their utility for diagnosis is still evolving.
- The rapid tests are useful for epidemiological studies and surveillance purposes.
- **The test has to be done under strict medical supervision.**
- Before starting the rapid test, testing facility should be registered on covid19cc.nic.in/ICMR and data related to the test should be reported on the same.

**A. COVID-19 Testing Strategy for India (Recommended for the entire country)**

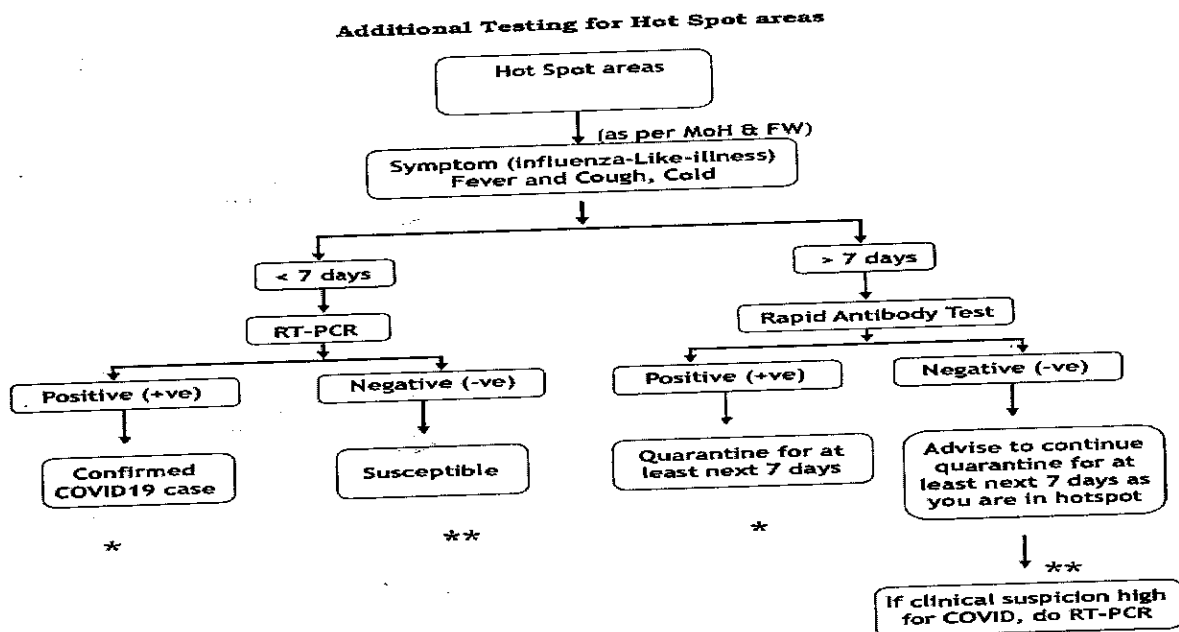
**Real Time PCR test and Point-of –Care molecular diagnostic assays are recommended for diagnosis of COVID-19 among individuals belonging to the following categories:**

- All symptomatic individuals who have undertaken international travel or travel to affected state/hot spot in the last 28 days
- All symptomatic contacts of laboratory confirmed cases
- All symptomatic health care workers and other department frontline workers
- All patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (fever, cough and/ or shortness of breath)
- All patients with ILI within 7 days
- Asymptomatic direct and high-risk contacts of a confirmed cases should be tested once between day 5 and day 14 of coming in his/her contact

## B. Antibody test shall be taken up in the following categories

- Patients with ILI symptoms for > 7days in containment and non containment area.
- Surveillance test for epidemiological purposes in containment area for larger population
- Surveillance test for epidemiological purposes in other than containment area for larger population

## Additional (in Addition to A) Testing recommended in Hot Spot



## General Guidelines to be followed while using Rapid Antibody Tests

- Healthcare workers doing the Rapid Antibody Test should use gloves, mask, and head covers.
- Healthcare workers collecting Blood/throat/nasal swab to follow standard national infection control guidelines.
- The Rapid Antibody Tests approved by US-FDA/CE-IVD or non-CE-IVD validated by ICMR-NIV with marketing approval by DCGI alone should be used.

- In order to ensure that all such cases are monitored and necessary action is initiated with respect to infectious disease management, details of all test results shall be uploaded in the ICMR portal.
- All such organizations are duty bound to register themselves to ICMR portal and upload the data in real-time.
- Failure to do so, they will be held liable to action under Disaster Management Act, 2005.

**BEELA RAJESH**  
**SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

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**SECTION OFFICER** 21/4/2020