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# COMMISSIONERATE

## Health & Family Welfare Services

No: DD/SSU/Novel Corona Virus/17/2019-20 (Part-1)

Date: 29.07.2020

### CIRCULAR

**Sub: COVID-19 Rapid antigen testing by private hospitals  
and private laboratories - Reg.**

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To enhance the testing of COVID-19, ICMR-GOI has validated and recommended use of Rapid Antigen Test kits as point-of-care (PoC) tests for early detection of SARS-CoV-2. These kits are available in the market for use by private hospitals and private laboratories. Government of Karnataka encourages increased testing for COVID-19 in both government and private in view of early detection of COVID-19 cases and following up with contact tracing and containment measures.

However, it has come to the notice of undersigned that few private hospitals and laboratories are not following norms as recommended by ICMR-GOI. Hence the following guidelines are issued. Any deviation from any private hospitals or laboratories in following the below guidelines for Rapid Antigen Testing will be viewed seriously and liable for stringent action under National Disaster Management Act 2005, Epidemic diseases Act 1897 and Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act.

1. All private hospitals conducting Rapid Antigen tests should be accredited by National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare (NABH) and registered under KPME
2. All private labs conducting Rapid Antigen tests should be accredited by National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL) and registered under KPME
3. Only ICMR validated and approved Rapid Antigen Testing kits shall be used for testing
4. All private labs approved by ICMR as COVID-19 testing labs can do Rapid Antigen Tests

5. All private hospitals and laboratories need to mandatorily enter details of all tests done into the ICMR portal on a real time basis. User credentials for ICMR portal should be obtained from the state by sending mail to [knlabcovid19@gmail.com](mailto:knlabcovid19@gmail.com) before initiating Rapid antigen testing in hospitals/labs.
6. All private hospitals/labs shall strictly adhere to COVID-19 testing protocols of Government of Karnataka issued from time to time
7. All private hospitals/labs need to ensure that all symptomatic patients, negative with Rapid antigen testing should be essentially referred to real-time RT-PCR test for COVID-19. This is particularly essential as the rapid antigen PoC test has a moderate sensitivity.
8. Rate of rapid antigen testing by private hospitals and labs - Rs: 700/- per sample inclusive of PPE kit as per Government of Karnataka order No. HFW 264 ACS 2020 dated 24.07.2020

  
Commissioner

Health & Family Welfare Services

**Copy for necessary action:**

1. Deputy Commissioner of all districts.
2. Chief Executive Officer of all districts.
3. District Surgeon of all districts.
4. District Health & Family Welfare Officer of all districts.
5. Nodal Officer of all Govt. Designated Covid-19 labs.

**Copy for kind information:**

1. Additional Chief Secretary, H & FW Department, Bengaluru.
2. Additional Chief Secretary, Planning, Programme Monitoring & Statistics Department, Bengaluru.
3. Mission Director, National Health Mission.
4. Director, Health & Family Welfare Services.