



Directorate of Health and Family Welfare Services

No. NHM/28/MDNHM/2020-2021

Date: 19.10.2020

**CIRCULAR**

Sub: Co-ordination for collection of samples from Government and Private labs in the District by DSOs for ILQS (ICMR)

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The District Surveillance Officers of the Districts will be responsible to co-ordinate with all the Government and Private Laboratories (RT-PCR; CBNAAT & TrueNAT) in their respective Districts and collect samples for RT-PCR, CBNAAT and TrueNAT for Inter-Laboratory Quality Assurance (ILQC). It is mandatory for all Government & Private Laboratories testing for COVID-19 using any of the above technologies to participate quarterly in the ILQC Programme of ICMR designed for RT-PCR labs and the External Quality Control Programme of Government of Karnataka for labs undertaking CBNAAT or TrueNAT testing.

The DSOs will ensure that samples are collected and transported by the 7<sup>th</sup> of every month from testing Laboratories which are due for Quality Control testing during the month based on the roster (which is annexed in this circular) to the mapped State Quality Control (SQC) Laboratory.

The three State Quality Control (SQCs) Laboratories identified by ICMR for Quality control validation for labs undertaking Covid -19 testing using RT-PCR technology are the following and will receive samples from such testing labs mapped to them and in addition based on Government of Karnataka's guidelines for CBNAAT and TrueNAT which is as follows:

- 1) SQC Lab - NIV- Bangalore Unit: Will receive QC samples from testing labs who are using RT-PCR technology only
- 2) SQC Lab -VRDL-BMCRI -Bangalore : Will receive QC samples from testing labs who are using either RT-PCR technology and /or CBNAAT technology
- 3) SQC Lab -VRDL- MMCRI- Mysore: Will receive samples for QC from testing labs who are using either RT-PCR technology and/or using TrueNAT technology.

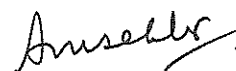
It will be the sole responsibility of the Government and Private laboratories to ensure that the samples being sent for QC are correctly screw- capped, labelled and packed in 3 layers of wrapping material and sent in boxes with ice-lined packs so that the cold-chain of the samples sent is being maintained right from the time of dispatch by the labs until the samples reach the concerned SQC. No acknowledgement for samples submitted for RT-PCRQC is required, as the dispatching lab will submit all details of the samples using the online portal developed by ICMR to the receiving SQC as soon as the samples are picked up by the concerned DSO.

Even though Quality Control Programme for CBNAAT and TrueNAT labs has not yet been initiated by ICMR, the State Government has decided to have an External Quality Control Programme for both Government & Private Labs using CBNAAT and TrueNAT Technology to ensure quality checks. Since there is no online portal for the submitted samples like the one designed by ICMR for RT-PCR samples, the concerned CBNAAT/ TrueNAT lab should send an "Acknowledgment Slip" along with required details of the QC samples being dispatched. All testing labs undertaking RT-PCR, CBNAAT testing in Government and Private labs located in Bangalore Urban and Rural District will submit their samples directly to the mapped/assigned SQC without the two DSOs intervention.

However, for TrueNAT samples from labs located in Bangalore Urban or Bangalore Rural Districts, DSOs Bangalore Urban and Bangalore Rural District will be responsible for collecting TrueNAT samples from labs from their respective district and ensure that they reach **VRDL- MMCRI** by the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month.

It may be noted that since SQCs samples will also need external validation, once every quarter their TrueNAT samples from VRDL-MMCRI (SQC) will be sent to VRDL- BMCRI (SQC) and vice versa TrueNAT samples from VRDL-BMCRI (SQC) will be sent to VRDL- MMCRI (SQC). Hence, appropriate action to be taken by the concerned DSOs of Bangalore Urban and Mysore to ensure sample collection and transportation of the same.

In case of CBNAAT Samples for QC from SQC VRDL- BMCRI, it will be sent to NIMHANS once every quarter for checking and DSO Bangalore Urban will ensure are accordingly transported according to the roster.



(Dr. Arundhathi Chandrasekhar)  
Mission Director  
National Health Mission

**Copy for necessary action;**

1. Deputy Commissioners of all districts
2. Chief Executive Officer, ZPs of all districts
3. District Health and Family Welfare Officers of all districts
4. District Surveillance Officers of all districts
5. Nodal Officers of all labs

**Copy for kind information;**

1. Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Department of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Department of Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics.
3. Commissioner, Health & Family Welfare Services.