



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

No. HFW 129 ACS 2020

Karnataka Government Secretariat
Vikasa Soudha
Bengaluru, dated: 30.4.2020

CIRCULAR

Sub: Collection and Transportation of Swab samples and Testing of SARI cases.

A. Collection and Transportation of Swab Samples:

1. Instructions have already been issued and training conducted regarding the collection of Swab samples for the diagnosis of COVID-19 cases. However, it has come to my notice that proper protocol is not being adhered to while collecting swab samples. It is to reiterate that while collecting the swab samples, samples from both nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal regions should be collected and kept in the same Viral Transport Medium (VTM) tube while sending for analysis. If both the samples are not collected and only nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal is sent for testing, it is most likely to give wrong result. There is a danger that patient who is positive may come out to be negative. It is again emphasised that while collecting swab samples **both the nasopharyngeal as well as oropharyngeal swabs** shall be collected and kept in the VTM before sending it to laboratories.

This should be supervised regularly by the Head of the Institution where collection centre is functioning.

2. It has also been noticed that the packaging and transportation of the samples is not happening as per the protocol of the sample collection and transport. Swab Collection Centres shall ensure that the **samples are collected and transported strictly as per laid down protocols.**

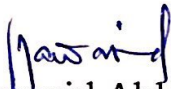
B. Testing of SARI Cases:

The Department of Health and Family Welfare Department has taken a drive to identify the SARI cases. It is advised that samples of all SARI cases that are being brought to Fever Clinics / Hospitals should be

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collected and sent for testing and the patient should be kept in quarantine until the result comes:

- (i) In case the test report turns out to be negative, the patient should be continued in quarantine for 14 days and 2 more samples should be drawn on 5th and 12th day and only when both the samples turn out to be negative, such patient should be discharged.
- (ii) In case test report turns out to be positive he should be admitted to the hospital and regular protocol of treatment and sample test should be conducted.


(Jawaaid Akhtar)

Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Department of Health and Family and
Medical Education.

To:

- 1) All the Directors and Nodal Officers, Government designated Covid-19 Hospitals and Testing Labs.

Copy to:

1. Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare Services.
2. Mission Director, NHM.
3. Director, Health and Family Welfare Services.
4. Director, Medical Education.