

Advisory for Procurement of Reagents for Labs doing Real Time (RT)-PCR of Throat and Nasal Swab for diagnosis of COVID-19

In order to ensure uninterrupted supply of reagents for COVID-19 testing, ICMR has formulated the following guidelines.

1. Each state is requested to identify a **nodal officer** to coordinate with the **State Resident Commissioner** stationed at Delhi for procurement /supply of reagents/primers/probes and other related supplies to respective ICMR recognized labs for the diagnosis of COVID-19 in their states.
2. All labs certified by ICMR will procure VTM & RNA Extraction kits through States.
3. Resident Commissioner will be in touch with Addl Secretary **Mr Shailendra Singh** (Ph. No. 9555305052), Dept of Industrial Policy & Promotion(DIPP) stationed at ICMR for the **purpose**.
4. ICMR will provide the **Primers, Probes and Master Mix for RT-PCR**, to selected labs (the list of Govt labs (123) which will receive reagents from ICMR as well as a separate list of Govt labs (6) which will not receive reagents from ICMR is placed on the weblink www.icmr.nic.in), while state will ensure the **supply of VTM, RNA Extraction kits** and other consumables as required.
5. All labs involved in COVID-19 testing irrespective of receipt of reagents from ICMR should register themselves with ICMR (contact point is Dr Harpreet Singh, Ph 9999496965). All data on COVID-19 testing should be essentially entered in to the online portal of ICMR on daily and real time basis.
6. Following steps are involved in testing a sample. Types of reagents required and their procurement process is as follows:

Steps	Reagents Required	Procurement	Manufactures/Sources [#]
Step 1 (Sample Collection)	VTM for sample collection (2 swabs- throat and Nasal swab should be put in 1 VTM tube)	BY State Govt	<i>Suppliers of Viral Transport Media with swabs include:</i> 1. Hi Media 2. BD universal viral transport (UVT) system 3. Viral Transport kit (TM Media) 4. Medireach Viral Transport kit
Step 2 (RNA Extraction)	RNA Extraction Kit	By State Govt	1. QIA amp VIRAL RNA MINIKIT (52904) BY QIAGEN 2. PureLink™ RNA Mini Kit (Invitrogen), 3. GenElute™ Total RNA Purification Kit, 4. ReliaPrep™ RNA Miniprep System 5. RNASure® Virus Kit (250)
Step 3 RT-PCR	Primers Probes Master Mix Positive Control RNAseP	ICMR through Resident Commissioner & State Nodal Officer	All real-time PCR kits approved by US-FDA and European CE and approved by CDSCO can be procured and used. In addition, real time RT-PCR kits validated by ICMR-NIV, Pune are: 1. Seegene 2. Altona 3. MyLab 4. SD Biosensor

#This is not an exhaustive list

All Private Labs and select Govt labs involved in testing for COVID-19 will procure all reagents of their own.