

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH

Date: 14.04.2020

Guidance on the use of Truenat™ beta CoV

1. ICMR has validated Truenat™ beta CoV test on Truelab™ workstation and has recommended it as a screening test.
2. All positive samples need to be reconfirmed by a separate confirmatory assay for SARS-CoV-2.
3. Throat/nasal swabs will be collected in the viral transport medium (VTM) with virus lysis buffer to be provided along with the kit.
4. All States who immediately intend to initiate Truenat™ beta CoV test on Truelab™ workstation are advised the following:
 - The proposed sites of Truelab™ workstation do not require approval of ICMR.
 - The States may appoint a core team of experts for assessing facilities with the Truelab™ workstation for feasibility of initiating COVID-19 testing in the existing setup.
 - Based on the evaluation of the core team, the designated officer of each state may accord approval for testing.
 - Procurement of the cartridges for existing machines and other logistics should be done through the Central TB Division.
 - Sample collection should only be done using the virus lysis buffer provided by the supplier. This is essential to avoid any biosafety / biosecurity concerns.
 - ICMR guidelines for testing (available at www.icmr.nic.in) may be strictly followed. Since the guidance evolves periodically, the latest revised version should be followed. Testing laboratories to ensure immediate/ real-time reporting to State officials of IDSP (Integrated Disease Surveillance Program of Govt. of India) for timely initiation of contact tracing. Additionally, as mandated by PMO, a report should also be uploaded on the online portal of ICMR. Each laboratory initiating COVID-19 testing should essentially register on the ICMR portal and get a username and password. Data entry should be ensured on a daily real-time basis.

Contact email for obtaining login credentials to the ICMR COVID-19 portal is:

support.dmu@bmi.icmr.org.in

- Please note any request for login credentials on the ICMR COVID-19 portal must be accompanied by the formal approval document accorded by the state authorities. This should be shared by email at the ID mentioned above.

(Kindly note that all data has to be reported to IDSP and ICMR)