



icmr
INDIAN COUNCIL OF
MEDICAL RESEARCH
Serving the nation since 1911

भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद्

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
बी. रामलिंगस्वामी भवन, अंसारी नगर नई दिल्ली-110029

Indian Council of Medical Research

Department of Health Research
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
V. Ramalingaswami Bhawan, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi - 110029

डॉ. जी. एस. टोटेजा
अपर महानिदेशक
Dr. G. S. Toteja
Additional Director General

D.O.No. ECD / COVID19 / Misc. / 2020

Dated: 27th April 2020

To

Chief Secretaries

All States / UTs

Subject: Advisory on Rapid Antibody Blood Tests - regarding

Sir / Madam

1. ICMR advocates that RT-PCR throat/nasal swab test is the best use for diagnosis of Covid 19. RT-PCR test detects the virus early and is the best strategy to identify and isolate the individual.
2. Several States have procured rapid antibody test kits and on their demand, ICMR has also provided these kits with clear instructions that they are to be used only for surveillance purpose. Some States have raised issues regarding their performance during the testing exercise that they have undertaken.
3. ICMR, thereafter, has also evaluated the kits of Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech and Zhuhai Livzon Diagnostics in field conditions. The results have shown wide variation in their sensitivity, despite early promise of good performance for surveillance purposes.
4. In view of this, States are advised to stop using these kits procured from the above-mentioned companies and return them to be sent back to the suppliers.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(G.S. Toteja)

Additional Director General

Copy to:

Principal Secretary / Secretary (Health), all States / UTs for information and necessary action.