



Press Release

Date: 8th September 2020

India crosses 5 crores sample testing

*Last one crores sample testing was achieved in only 10 days
Number of Covid-19 testing laboratories stands at 1668*

Indian Council of Medical Research [ICMR], the apex body at forefront of formulating COVID-19 testing strategy in India has crossed 5 crores testing mark on 7th September 2020. With average testing of more than 10 lakhs per day in last 10 days, India has tested 5,06,50,128 samples across the country till 7th September 2020. The last one crores sample testing was achieved in only 10 days.

Rapidly increasing testing samples was made possible as daily testing average had been on a continuous rise from around 7 lakh tests being conducted per day in the 3rd week of August to more than 10 lakh tests per day in the 1st week of September. Which was achieved because of ramped up COVID-19 specific diagnostic labs across India with active support of Central and State/UT governments.

ICMR has effectively responded to the evolving epidemic through focused and collaborative efforts of the Centre, State/UT government. Recently India achieved milestone of conducting 10 lakhs tests per day. These milestone are testimony to the fact that India has been successful in implementing Testing, Tracking & Treating strategy efficiently, which will enable us to contain the pandemic."

ICMR has been responding to the situation by regularly revising its strategy for testing. In its latest advisory on COVID-19 testing strategy 'Testing on Demand' for individuals has been allowed. The State/UT governments can simplify the modalities to facilitate testing on demand.

The existing recommendations related to testing for COVID-19 have been extended, elaborated and divided into four parts – routine surveillance in containment zones and screening at points of entry, routine surveillance in non-containment areas, hospital settings and testing on demand – and choice of test (RT-PCR, TrueNat or CBNAAT and rapid antigen tests) in order of the priority.



India has been ramping up the testing facility across India. The total number Covid-19 specific testing laboratories count has reach 1668. Of which dedicated government laboratories are 1035 and private laboratories number stands at 633.

About ICMR

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world. The ICMR has always attempted to address itself to the growing demands of scientific advances in biomedical research on the one hand, and to the need of finding practical solutions to the health problems of the country, on the other. The ICMR has come a long way from the days when it was known as the IRFA, but the Council is conscious of the fact that it still has miles to go in pursuit of scientific achievements as well as health targets. The Council's research priorities coincide with the National health priorities such as control and management of communicable diseases, fertility control, maternal and child health, control of nutritional disorders, developing alternative strategies for health care delivery, containment within safety limits of environmental and occupational health problems; research on major non-communicable diseases like cancer, cardiovascular diseases, blindness, diabetes and other metabolic and haematological disorders; mental health research and drug research (including traditional remedies). All these efforts are undertaken with a view to reduce the total burden of disease and to promote health and well-being of the population. For more information, please visit <https://www.icmr.gov.in>

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