COVID-19 Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell
Health & Family Welfare Department
Government of Kerala

Advisory for Pooled Testing for COVID - RTPCR/Xpert/ TrueNAT tests
No 31/ F2/2020/ Health- 22\textsuperscript{nd} June 2020

ICMR has recommended pooling of samples when the test positive ratio is less than 2%. Department of Health & Family Welfare, Kerala has studied the test positivity rates of various categories of samples. Based on the findings, following advisory is issued regarding pooling of samples for COVID testing.


2. Except for (1) Symptomatic patients who have undertaken international/interstate travel in last 14 days (Category 1) and (2) Symptomatic contacts of laboratory confirmed cases (Category 2), all other samples (category 3-15) could be pooled for testing either using RTPCR/ TrueNAT/ Xpert. Districts are instructed to send samples of individuals belonging to category (Category 3-15) in mVTM 0.5 ml, labelling ‘Pooled Test’ in Sample Request Form and VTM.

3. Pooling of the samples (for category 3-15) shall be done as per the advisory on RTPCR pooled testing 12\textsuperscript{th} May 2020 [https://dhs.kerala.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Advisory-on-RTPCR-Pooled-testing.pdf] and advisory on pooled testing for TrueNAT and Xpert on 22\textsuperscript{nd} June 2020.

Principal Secretary