



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

Advisory COVID-19 – Testing augmentation- Xpert-SARS-CoV-Testing- Reg

NO: 31 /F2/2020/Health- 24nd April 2020

COVID 19 pandemic has posed challenges to the health care services worldwide. While we fight the pandemic with all our strength, it is important to augment testing for the specific segments that would assist to do proper containment and management of COVID19 as per the availability of the consumables needed for testing facilities.

The Department of Health & Family Welfare has taken the initiative for setting up the Xpert-SARS-CoV testing facilities. ICMR is providing required cartridges for doing the tests.

1. Xpert-SARS-CoV testing have been initiated in the following laboratories in Kerala.
 1. GMC Thiruvananthapuram
 2. GMC Ernakulam
 3. GMC Kozhikode
2. Xpert-SARS-CoV is a confirmatory RTPCR test. The results could be obtained in 45 minutes.
3. **ONLY** the following samples with **emergency nature** to be processed using Xpert-SARS-CoV- Tests.
 - a. Any COVID suspect for whom an emergency surgery is planned
 - b. Any symptomatic health care worker who worked in a setting with high exposure to COVID-19
 - c. Any sick patients with SARI for whom an early test results will have a role in clinical management.
 - d. Any COVID suspected death which requires testing for further actions

4. All other samples need to be processed using In-house PCR.
5. **Sample Collection: Only Nasopharyngeal swabs** to be collected and placed in 3ml Viral transport medium for testing using Xpert- SARS-CoV2. The vial with the sample needs to be maintained in storage condition of 15-30°C up-to 8 hours. If delay of more than 8 hours is expected sample to be stored at 2-8°C. Basic triple packaging as advised by WHO should be followed for transport of samples.
6. **Labelling of Samples:** Samples in this category need to be labelled as “**For Xpert**” along with the other details routinely written.
7. **Test Request:** Along with routine ICMR test request, the **request for Xpert also need** to be filled for those samples for which an Xpert test is requested. (**annexure-1**).


Principal Secretary

Annexure 1:

**Government of Kerala
COVID-19 testing USING XPERT**

SAMPLE ID NO: _____/ _____ /_____ (DISTRICT /DATE/SAMPLE NO.)
[eg. PKD / 24-04-2020/ 01]

Type of Sample: Nasopharyngeal swab

| | | |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Name: | | |
| Age: | | Gender: Male/ Female/ Other |
| Address | | |
| District | | Phone Number: |
| Name of LSG | | |

1. Is the subject Symptomatic/ Asymptomatic? _____

2. If Symptomatic; data of onset of first symptoms: ___/___/_____

3. Which Out of the four groups the sample belongs to? **CIRCLE**

| Group | |
|--------------|---|
| 1 | Any COVID suspect for whom an emergency surgery is planned |
| 2 | Any COVID suspected death which requires testing for further actions |
| 3 | Any symptomatic health care worker who worked in a setting with high exposure to COVID-19 |
| 4 | Any sick patients with SARI for whom an early test results will have a role in clinical management. |