



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

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**ADVISORY REGARDING SWABBING OF SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS  
UNDERGOING RAPID ANTIGEN TEST FOR COVID-19.**

**No.8/ 31/F2/HEALTH- 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021.**

**REF: No.7/ 31/F2/2020/Health- February 9, 2021**

The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), has issued advisory that all **symptomatic individuals found negative on Rapid Antigen Test** shall undergo sequential **testing by RTPCR.**

It has been observed that retesting by RTPCR of patients with ILI symptoms and SARI case and all other symptomatic cases and rapid antigen test negative individuals are not done and some cases are getting missed out.

In this regard the following shall be followed:

- Two swabs are to be taken simultaneously at the time of swabbing of symptomatic individuals undergoing Rapid Antigen test without fail.
- One sample should be used to perform the Rapid Antigen test.
- If the rapid antigen test is found to be negative on a symptomatic individual, the other swab should be definitely sent immediately for testing using RTPCR.

  
**Principal Secretary**