

Sub: Xpert-SARS-CoV-Testing

Xpert-SARS-CoV testing have been initiated in the following laboratories in Kerala.

1. GMC Thiruvananthapuram
2. GMC Ernakulam
3. GMC Kozhikode

Xpert-SARS-CoV is a confirmatory RTPCR test. The results could be obtained in 45 minutes.

ONLY the following samples with **emergency nature** to be processed using Xpert-SARS-CoV- Tests.

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.

All other samples need to be processed using In-house PCR.

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

Labelling of Samples: Samples in this category need to labelled as “**For Xpert**” along with the other details routinely written.

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).

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.