

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- 22nd 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.

- Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala has issued revised guideline on testing and quarantine on 3rd June 2020 [https://dhs.kerala.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Revised-Guideline-COVID-19-Testing-Quarantine-Isolation.pdf].
- 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.
- Pooling of the samples (for category 3-15) shall be done as per the advisory on RTPCR pooled testing 12th May 2020 [https://dhs.kerala.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Advisory-on-RT-PCR-Pooled-testing.pdf] and advisory on pooled testing for TrueNAT and Xpert on 22nd June 2020.

Principal Secretary