



Government of Karnataka  
**Directorate of Health And Family Welfare Services**  
Ananda Rao Circle, Bangalore-09

No. DHS/PS/118/2019-20

DATE : 24.03.2020

**REVISED CIRCULAR**

**SUB :** Revised Lab Testing Protocol – COVID – 19

**REF :** 1. Circular No: DHS/ PS / 118 / 2019-20 Dated : 22.03.2020

2. D.O.No. R15013 / 01 / 2020-HR-VRDL, Dated: 21/3/2020 of ICMR.

In view of evolving situation of COVID-19 in Karnataka, the revised testing strategy has been issued on 22.03.2020 in the Circular mentioned in the reference. As the number of COVID-19 cases is shooting up day by day, the revised testing strategy is given below:

- i. ALL symptomatic persons (fever, cough, difficulty in breathing) within 14 days of international travel.
- ii. ALL symptomatic contacts of confirmed cases.
- iii. ALL symptomatic healthcare workers.
- iv. All hospitalized patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (fever AND cough, and/or shortness of breath) – After ruling out other causes.
- v. Asymptomatic direct and high-risk contacts of a confirmed case should be tested once between day 5 and day 14 of coming in his / her contact. **Direct and High-Risk contact** include
  - Those who live in the same household with a confirmed case, and
  - Healthcare workers who examined a confirmed case without adequate protection as per WHO recommendations.

The Sample collection to be done at all First Respondent Hospitals, Taluka hospitals and district hospitals by the treating Physicians using Lab Technologists and Staff Nurse under the guidance of Microbiologist/Pathologist. The DSO to ensure the following in co-ordination with the Microbiologist.

- o The availability of VTMs
- o Proper packaging and transportation of samples to the nearest COVID-19 testing lab.
- o The standard guidelines for COVID-19 sample collection and transportation has to be followed.

  
DIRECTOR

**HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES**  
BENGALURU  
Director  
Health & Family Welfare Services,  
Bengaluru.

**COPY TO :**

1. District Health & FW Officers of all the districts
2. District Surgeons of all the districts
3. District Surveillance Officers to take necessary actions.

**COPY FOR KIND INFORMATION:**

1. Addl. Chief Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru.
2. The Commissioner, Health & Family Welfare Services , Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru.
3. Mission Director-NHM, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru.
4. Joint Director, CMD, Directorate of Health & Family Welfare Services, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru.
5. Deputy Director, SSU & State Epidemiologist , DHFWS, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru.
6. Office copy.