

## **DBT's RGCB among other laboratories have been designated as authorized agency for COVID 19 testing in Kerala**

The Health & Family Welfare Department Government of Kerala issued COVID-19 guidelines for distribution of laboratories. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the COVID-19 epidemic affecting more than 197 countries as a pandemic. Due to the inflow of people from affected countries, Kerala state has strengthened its surveillance and control measures against the disease. As part of improving capacity to test samples taken from suspected and contacts more labs from public sector are added to the pool in the state with ICMR approval. The following instructions were issued to the Nodal Officers in the labs:

1. It is decided to allocate districts to individual laboratories as noted below. The District Surveillance Officers from the districts will send sample from the concerned districts to their designated labs strictly following the protocols issued earlier.
2. The DSOs will take attention to send the repeat samples of those tested 'Positive' to the previously designated labs for follow up testing until the test becomes 'Negative'.
3. The Nodal Officers in charge of the testing facilities will ensure the test results are reported in the format attached as annexure.
4. Reporting day is taken as previous day 12.00 pm to 12.00 pm of the reporting day.
5. The Nodal officers confidentiality of Laboratories are strictly instructed to follow reporting of results, safety of data and are authorized to communicate the results only through the link provided and strictly prohibited to print the results. The report should be sent from the email id, exclusively created for this purpose and shared with the Nodal Officers of Laboratories separately.
6. Intimations regarding the newly starting laboratories in the state will be sending to districts as and when they are functional and subject to ICMR approval for modifying the logistics arrangements mentioned above.

**Following laboratories were selected for the testing:**

<b>S. no.</b>	<b>Laboratory</b>
1	Microbiology Lab, GMC, TVM
2	State Public Health Lab, TVM
3	NIV Alappuzha, Alappuzha
4	Microbiology Lab, GMC, Thrissur
5	Microbiology lab, GMC, Kozhikode
6	Rajeev Gandhi Center for Biotechnology (RGCB), Thiruvananthapuram
7	Malabar Cancer Center, Thalassery
8	SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram
9	InterUniversity Centre For Biomedical Research & Superspeciality Hospital, Idukki