

ICMR approves DBT's Pune-based NCCS for testing COVID-19 samples

To facilitate the ongoing efforts against COVID-19 in the country, the National Centre for Cell Science (DBT-NCCS) in Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), will soon begin testing samples for SARS-CoV-2, with approval from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the DBT. This is in accordance with the orders received from the Government of India, with DBT-NCCS being one of the Government laboratories identified for carrying out COVID-testing. The necessary resources and the infrastructure were quickly organized by DBT-NCCS to initiate steps in this direction. Further, to ensure that the tests are conducted in compliance with appropriate safety and quality standards, a section of the staff from DBT-NCCS was sent to the National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV) in Pune, to be specially trained for this purpose. Fifteen technical staff members and scientists received COVID-related biosafety training, and ten technical staff members and scientists received training for COVID testing. DBT-NCCS gratefully acknowledges the ICMR-NIV for this invaluable support. Mock testing is being done, and testing of samples will begin in due course. DBT-NCCS is also providing support to CSIR-NCL, IISER-Pune and ARI in their efforts to establish COVID testing labs on their premises.

Link: <https://www.nccs.res.in/>

