



## **ABSTRACT**

COVID 19 – Health and Family Welfare department – Sampling Protocol for RTPCR Testing – Orders – Issued.

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### **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (P1) DEPARTMENT**

**G.O.(Ms).No.346**

**Dated: 06.08.2021  
Pilava, Aadi - 21  
Thiruvalluvar Aandu – 2052**

**Read :**

1. G.O.(Ms).No.319, Health and Family Welfare (P1) Department dated: 31.08.2020.
2. G.O.(Ms).No.88, Health and Family Welfare (P1) Department dated: 24.02.2021.
4. Mail received from the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, dated:01.08.2021.

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### **ORDER :-**

In Government order first read above, the Government have issued comprehensive guidelines for COVID-19. In Government order second read above, modified comprehensive guidelines have been issued for COVID-19 testing strategy, guidelines for home isolation, demarcation of containment zone, categorization of patients and discharge policy for Covid-19 patients.

2. The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine has sent a draft Sampling Protocol for RTPCR Testing for approval of the Government.

3. The Government have examined the draft Sampling Protocol for RTPCR Testing and issue the following Sampling Protocol for RTPCR Testing:-

### **Sampling Protocol for RTPCR Testing**

#### **A. Sampling Criteria in Health Care Facilities**

1. All patients of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI)
2. All symptomatic (ILI symptoms) patients presenting in a health care setting
3. Asymptomatic high-risk patients who are hospitalized or seeking immediate hospitalization(Diabetes, over-weight/obesity, Heart Disease, hypertension,

Chronic Lung Disease, Cancer, Chronic Kidney Disease and any other condition resulting in low levels of immunity)

4. Asymptomatic patients undergoing surgical/ non-surgical invasive procedures (not to be tested more than once a week during hospital stay)
5. All pregnant women in/ near labour who are hospitalized for delivery
6. All symptomatic neonates presenting with acute respiratory/ sepsis like illness
7. Patients presenting with atypical manifestations [stroke, encephalitis, pulmonary embolism, acute coronary symptoms, Guillain Barre syndrome, Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), progressive gastrointestinal symptoms] based on the discretion of the treating physician
8. All individuals who wish to get themselves tested

#### **B. Sampling Criteria in the Community**

1. All symptomatic cases (ILI symptoms - fever, cough, sore throat, breathlessness, diarrhea, headache, loss of taste, loss of smell or taste, fatigue within the last 10 days)
2. All symptomatic high-risk individuals (Diabetes, over-weight/obesity, Heart Disease, hypertension, Chronic Lung Disease, Cancer, Chronic Kidney Disease and any other condition resulting in low levels of immunity)
3. All symptomatic (ILI symptoms) individual with history of travel to any city
4. All contacts of laboratory positive cases
5. Extended contacts during low transmission period
6. All CT scan chest patients (who has not been tested by RTPCR) and close contacts of CT scan chest patients, irrespective of CT findings/indications
7. Everyone in the workplace of a lab positive person (Example: All employees of a bank, an office, a textile showroom, any closed, crowded and contained space)
8. All antenatal mothers within four days of Expected Date of Delivery
9. All travelers from foreign countries with or without symptoms
10. Cataract cases identified for surgery at camp site
11. All individuals who wish to get themselves tested

#### **C. Random Sampling**

1. Random samples at vulnerable places like pharmacies, fair price shops, vegetable vendors, taxi/auto drivers, transport staff of Government and Private, Public gatherings, Markets, Public places like Bus stand, Railway station, Government offices, Hotels, Tea Shop staff and similar places, patients visiting NCD clinics. About 20 percent of total samples may be from this category.

#### **D. Mandatory sampling**

1. Mandatory sample lifting and testing to fulfill travel requirements, screening requirements, any new inmates in places like old age homes, jails, home for the mentally challenged and any other statutory or mandatory requirement as per the guidelines of the local health authority or any other competent authority.



**Declaration of Results**

1. The result must be declared with 24 hours of sampling
2. The results must be communicated to all the individuals through SMS even if it is negative.

**(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)**

**J.RADHAKRISHNAN,  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.**

To

The Principal Secretary / Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai – 600 003.

The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Chennai – 600 006.

The Director of Medical Education, Chennai – 600 010.

The Director of Medical and Rural Health Services, Chennai – 600 006.

All Deans of the Medical Colleges (through the Director of Medical Education, Chennai- 600 010)

All District Collectors.

Copy to:-

The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Medical and Family Welfare), Chennai – 600 00

The Principal Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, Chennai – 600 009.

Stock File / Spare Copy / Data Cell.

**// FORWARDED BY ORDER //**

*B. Radhakrishnan*  
*6/8/21*  
**SECTION OFFICER**

*6/8/21*

Data cell