

**GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
NAGALAND::KOHIMA**

ADVISORY ON RAPID ANTIBODY TEST FOR COVID-19

Dated Kohima, the 07th Aug 2020.

No: DHFW/COVID-19/2019-20/5211-15 :: Globally the utility of rapid antibody tests is evolving and is currently being used for detecting the formation of antibodies in individuals exposed to the virus. Further, these test results are also dependent on field conditions.

Accordingly, ICMR had clearly laid down the scope, purpose and usage of the rapid antibody tests from time to time which can be downloaded for ICMR portal at <https://www.icmr.gov.in/cteststrat.html>. Therefore, **Rapid Antibody Test is recommended to be used as a tool for SURVEILLANCE and not for DIAGNOSIS of COVID-19 infection.**

Only ICMR validated Rapid Antibody Test kits shall be used. The details of validated Test kits List of Companies / Vendors of Rapid Antigen Test Kits for COVID-19 can be downloaded from: https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/kits/Antibody_based_tests_31072020.pdf


Modalities & Interpretation of the Rapid Antibody Test:

- a. Can be done on blood/serum/plasma samples.
- b. Test result is available within 30 minutes.
- c. Test may come positive after 7-10 days of infection.
- d. The test may remain positive for several weeks after infection.
- e. Positive test indicates exposure to SARS-CoV-2.
- f. Negative test does not rule out COVID-19 infection.

General Guidelines:

- a. Healthcare workers doing the rapid antibody test to use gloves, mask, and head covers.
- b. Healthcare workers collecting throat/nasal swab to follow standard national infection control guidelines.
- c. The rapid antibody tests approved by US-FDA/CE-IVD or non-CE-IVD validated by ICMR-NIV with marketing approval by DCGI be used.
- d. In order to ensure that all such cases are monitored and necessary action is initiated with respect to infectious disease management, details of all test results shall be uploaded in ICMR portal.
- e. All such organizations are duty bound to register themselves to ICMR portal and upload the data in real-time.
- f. Failure to do so, they will be held liable to action under Disaster Management Act, 2005.

Therefore all concerned are advised to follow the prescribed protocol for these tests and use it for the purposes for which these are meant.


(Dr. VIZOLIE Z SUOKHRIE)


Principal Director
Directorate of Health & Family Welfare

No: DHFW/COVID-19/2019-20/5211-15

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Copy To:

1. The Deputy Secretary to the Chief Secretary, Government of Nagaland for kind information.
2. The Principal Secretary, Home Department for kind information.
3. The Commissioner & Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department for kind information.
4. The Mission Director (NHM)/ Director (H)/ Director (FW)/ Jt Director (Store)/ Jt Director & NO of COVID-19 Testing for information and necessary action.
5. The Deputy Commissioner & Chairman DTF/ Chief Medical Officer/ Medical Superintendent of all districts for information and necessary action.
6. Guard file/ Office copy.


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