

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH

Date: 19/04/2020

Additional Guidelines for TrueNat testing for COVID-19

In addition to existing guidelines for testing for COVID-19 (including the biosafety precautions for sample collection and transportation); TrueNat being a screening test for COVID-19, following procedures may be followed for registration of laboratories on ICMR portal –

1. Since TrueNat is a screening test, therefore a confirmatory test is necessary. Accordingly, for Government laboratories, where ever TrueNat is planned to be used as a standalone unit; it must be mapped with an existing laboratory registered with ICMR for real time RT-PCR testing for COVID-19. In such a case, the -
 - Negative test results uploaded by the TrueNat laboratory will be deemed as final for that episode of testing; and
 - Positive test results uploaded by the TrueNat laboratory will be deemed as provisional and will be considered as confirmatory only after uploading of real time RT-PCR test results by the concerned / mapped laboratory registered for COVID-19 real time RT-PCR testing; and
 - Transportation of the sample(s), on positive result by TrueNat, for further confirmation by RT-PCR will be the responsibility of the concerned TrueNat laboratory
2. For Private laboratories, the TrueNat test will be permitted only if the TrueNat machines are installed in the same laboratory that is already registered with ICMR for real time RT-PCR testing as per guideline.