

**Guideline for RT-PCR based pooled sampling for migrants/returnees from abroad/green zones**

The following guideline is in pursuance of letter of Secretary, MoHFW dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 on the subject.

A decision has been taken to use one time RT-PCR based pooled sampling for surveillance purposes for migrant workers in institutional quarantine facilities, international passengers in institutional quarantine facilities/hotels ear-marked for quarantine and for surveillance purposes in green zones (districts with no case/no case reported in last 21 days).

The following guidelines would be followed for pooling of samples:

1. A cohort of 25 people will be identified
2. Throat/nasal swab will be collected following laid down protocol by trained laboratory personnel under appropriate protective gear (apron, hand glove, face-shield/goggles, N-95 mask), as per ICMR protocol (available at:  
[https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/5Sample%20collection\\_packaging%20%202019-nCoV.pdf](https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/5Sample%20collection_packaging%20%202019-nCoV.pdf))
3. Proper labelling (name/age/gender/specimen ID) needs to be done on specimen container.
4. 25 such samples of such cohort would be packed in triple layer packaging and will be transported to the identified laboratory under cold-chain as per ICMR guidelines, link of which is provided under para -2. The outer container mentioning “be tested for SARS-CoV-2” will also bear the details of sender (name/address/phone number).
5. The samples will be aliquoted and thereafter pooled samples from 25 specimens shall be tested in the laboratory by RT-PCR method.
6. The report will be conveyed to the quarantine/concerned facility within 24 hours.
7. If any of the pooled samples tests positive, individual samples would be tested from the aliquoted samples preserved in the laboratory.