Home Test Kits for COVID-19

Recently, home test kits for COVID-19 based on Rapid Antigen Test (R.A.T.) model have been authorised for use in India.

When to Test?

Home testing by R.A.T. is advised only in symptomatic individuals and immediate contacts of laboratory-confirmed positive cases. Indiscriminate testing, or 'when-you-feel-like-it,' is not advisable 'at present'. You should test only if you feel you have been potentially exposed to 'a case,' and are worried about contracting infection with the coronavirus.

You can do this test at home if you want to:

• Avoid contact with other people
• Avoid visiting a laboratory/testing site

How to Test?

✓ Follow the instructions of the manufacturer of the home kit
✓ Download the relevant app available on Play Store (Android) or App Store (iOS)
✓ Follow instructions as per manufacturer's online pictorial and video link
✓ Click a picture of the test strip after completing the test procedure with the same mobile phone which has been used for downloading the mobile app and user registration
✓ Follow manufacturer's instructions for disposal of the test kit, swab and other materials

Data Handling

• Data through the app of your mobile phone will be centrally captured in a secure server connected with the ICMR COVID-19 testing portal
• Patient confidentiality will be fully maintained

Test Results

All results may be interpreted as per the protocol laid down by the manufacturer given in the user manual on the app/online link.

Positive

• Considered as true positives
• No repeat testing required
• Contact a doctor through telemedicine
• Follow home isolation and care as per current guidelines

Negative

Asymptomatic

• Continue COVID Appropriate Behaviour
• Stay Safe

Symptomatic

• Get tested by RTPCR
• Follow home isolation protocol while awaiting RTPCR results

#OneAgainstCovid