

ICMR-National Institute of Research in Tribal Health, Jabalpur

Activities on COVID-19

Diagnosis Services in the State of Madhya Pradesh:

In view of the declared pandemic of COVID-19 by WHO, preparedness for diagnosis for SARS CoV-2 at ICMR-NIRTH has started as early as in the first week of February 2020. After a brief training to the existing staff of the Virology Division by the Principal Investigator on biosafety and real-time-PCR-based diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2, testing of samples was started from 16 March 2020, with a capacity of about 60 samples per day. Since then, as of 17 May 2020, more than 7,000 samples have been tested for SARS-CoV-2, with a current testing capacity of about 240 samples per day. Sixteen staff (three scientists and 13 technical staff) are working in three different shifts everyday under the leadership of Dr. Pradeep Barde, Scientist E.

Standardization of Molecular Diagnosis of SARS CoV-2:

In addition to the real-time-PCR-based diagnosis services provided by the ICMR-NIRTH, diagnosis of SARS CoV-2 with another molecular method through Xpert-based testing was also standardized. Dr. Jyothi Bhat, Scientist E and her team was involved in this activity.

Capacity Building of Government Medical Colleges, Madhya Pradesh:

ICMR-NIRTH is providing diagnosis services of SARS CoV-2 to about 20 districts of Madhya Pradesh. However, in order to build capacity in term of trained manpower for diagnosis of SARS CoV-2, and on request of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, ICMR-NIRTH, Jabalpur has provided hands-on training to 38 medical, paramedical and technical staff from 08 government medical colleges on diagnosis of SARS CoV-2. Dr. Pradeep Barde, Scientist E and the team of Virology Division of ICMR-NIRTH has provided necessary hands-on training.

Sero-surveillance Study in Madhya Pradesh:

As a part of the nation-wide community-based sero-surveillance activity, a 45-member team comprising scientists and technical staff of ICMR-NIRTH, Jabalpur has collected 1200 venous blood samples from 30 clusters of three different districts of Madhya Pradesh (Dewas, Gwalior and Ujjain). The samples will be sent to ICMR-NIRT for necessary testing. Dr. Jyothi Bhat, Scientist E has led the study.



COVID-19 sample receiving



Sample cataloguing



Sample processing and RNA extraction



Templet Addition



RT PCR result analysis



Master mix preparation



Training manpower from Medical Colleges



Community survey of COVID-19 in Dewas district