



NHMHP-IDSP/1/2020-IDSP-SectionPart-(2)-16780-20497  
National Health Mission-HP  
SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-9  
Himachal Pradesh  
Dated: Shimla-171009, the

MISSION DIRECTOR (NHM)  
22 APR 2021  
Shimla-9 (H.P.)

To,

All the Heads of the Department,  
Department of Microbiology,  
Govt. Medical Colleges  
in Himachal Pradesh

Director  
CRI Kasauli,  
District Solan

Director  
IHBT Palampur,  
District Kangra

**Subject :** Genomic Surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in the State.

Madam/Sir,

This is in continuation to this office letter number NHMHP-IDSP/1/2020-IDSP-Section-Part(3)-10585 dated 1st January 2021 regarding Genomic surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in the State.

In this regard all the incharges of 7 RTPCR Laboratories (Pt JLNGMC Chamba, Dr. RPGMC Tanda, SLBSGMCH Nerchowk, CRI Kasauli, RKGMC Hamirpur, IHBT Palampur and Dr.YSPGMC Nahan) are directed to send 31 samples of the COVID positive patients from each lab for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 to IGMC Shimla through respective Chief Medical Officers of the Districts. Along with these, samples of persons found COVID positive after second dose of vaccination irrespective of period after second dose and also of those cases who have been re-infected with COVID 19 after being infected earlier, should be sent on priority basis as a matter of caution.

Incharge of IGMC Shimla shall also send 31 samples along with the samples collected from other RT-PCR laboratories in the State to NCDC Delhi, through NHM associated vehicle for Genomic sequencing in cold chain as per directions of sample transportation from NCDC Delhi.

Further, in reference to D.O received from Govt. of India dated 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 (copy enclosed), in order to continue deriving meaningful



information from the Whole Genome Sequencing (SGS) exercise, as set of guidelines for WGS is as under:-

**Sentinel Surveillance:**

- Each Lab to send 15 samples every 15 days to NCDC Delhi for WGS.
- The samples from the aforesaid laboratory should be randomly selected.
- The samples from the tertiary care health facilities should include sample of patients with severe illness/prolonged admission, suspected re-infection, suspected vaccination failure/infection following vaccination, any other special case etc.
- Each sample to be sent for WGS should have a CT <30 and must be accompanied by a completely filled sample referral form (Copy attached as Annexure -1 and relevant SRF form)

**Special Surveillance:**

- The objective of the special surveillance is to gather WGS information in the community by targeting events like clustering of COVID cases. Suspected super-spreader events, clustering of cases in institutions, suspected vaccine failure and re-infection clusters etc.
- The WGS information is to be epidemiologically correlated with the event under investigation.
- The concerned District Surveillance Officer (DSO) may send appropriate number of samples (after discussion with State Surveillance Officer and IDSP, NCDC and concerned lab) for WGS on a case to case basis.



Yours faithfully,

*N. Jaiswal*  
22/4/21  
Mission Director, NHM  
Himachal Pradesh

**Endst. No. As above Dated Shimla -9 the  
Copy for information and necessary action to:**

1. The Chief Medical Officer of the District Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmaur & Solan are requested to provide transportation for transporting the samples from their respective RT-PCR labs to IGMC Shimla.
2. All the District Surveillance Officers for information and necessary action.

*N. Jaiswal*  
22/4/21  
Mission Director, NHM  
Himachal Pradesh





सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली-110011

Government of India  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi - 110011

आरती आहुजा भा.प्र.से.

अपर सचिव

**Arti Ahuja, IAS**

**Additional Secretary**

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D .O No. Z-21020/1 6/2020 -PH

Dated the 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Dear *Sir/Madam,*

As you are aware that the **Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG)** with ten regional genome sequencing laboratories (RGSLs) spread across the country has been constituted for viral genome sequencing and the State-wise indicative list of RGSLs has been communicated earlier. At present the State Surveillance Units (SSUs) under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) coordinate the flow of samples from States to various RGSLs. The genome sequencing results are being sent to NCDC also for collation and integration.

Using the INSACOG network and the support from States/UTs, over 12000 samples have been sequenced till date and the results have been shared with the respective States/UTs. In order to continue deriving meaningful information from the Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) exercise, a set of guidelines for the States/UTs have been formulated. The States/UTs may refer the same while sending the samples for WGS.

We look forward to your support in this.

*With warm regards,*

Yours sincerely,

*(Arti Ahuja)*

To:- ACS/Principal Secretary (Health)/ MD (NHM) – All States/UTs



Guidelines for selecting the samples for WGS**Sentinel Surveillance**

- Each state to identify 5 labs and 5 tertiary care health facilities as sentinel sites.
- Each site to send 15-samples every 15 days to designated lab for WGS.
- The samples from the aforesaid labs should be randomly selected.
- The samples from the tertiary care health facilities should include samples of patients with severe illness/prolonged admission, suspected re-infection, suspected vaccination failure/infection following vaccination, any other special case etc.
- Each sample to be sent for WGS should have a CT <30 and must be accompanied by a completely filled sample referral form (copy attached as ANNEXURE I and relevant SRF form).

**Special Surveillance** (to be undertaken in special case scenarios; after discussion with IDSP, NCDC)

- The objective of the special surveillance is to gather WGS information in the community by targeting events like clustering of covid cases, suspected super-spreader events, clustering of cases in institutions, suspected vaccine failure and re-infection clusters etc.
- The WGS information is to be epidemiologically correlated with the event under investigation.
- The concerned District Surveillance Officer (DSO) may send appropriate number of samples (after discussion with State Surveillance Officer and IDSP, NCDC and concerned lab) for WGS on a case-to-case basis.

**Report sharing:**

**Considering the time for WGS, IDSP will be sharing the reports with the state Surveillance officer in around 10 to 12 days.**

