To,

All the Chief Medical Officers
In Himachal Pradesh
Dated Shimla-9

Subject: Regarding Rapid Antigen Testing for COVID-19 by private sector

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to this office notification No. NHMHP-IDSP/1/2020-IDSP-Section-NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION-HP-Part(3) 10145 dated 1/12/2020 on the subject cited above. In order to increase testing in the State, thereby achieving the mandate of tracking and treating and to regulate the rates of testing for COVID-19 by Rapid Antigen in the private sector, Chief Medical Officers of the respective districts are hereby authorised to give permission to the private laboratories and hospitals (even if non NABH/NABL) who are willing to undertake these tests in accordance with the notification issued on 28th August and revised on dated on 1st December 2020. Sample collection, testing, reporting and biomedical waste management shall be in accordance to the guidelines issued.

Operational Instructions for Rapid Antigen Testing Hospitals/ Labs by private sector:

1. The login credential and password shall be provided by respective Chief Medical Officers for their respective districts. These login credential and password shall only be used for performing and entering rapid antigen test results.

2. All rapid antigen test undertaken shall be entered into the ICMR portal using the login ID credentials.

3. The algorithm issued by ICMR shall be followed for these tests. As per the algorithm, the following guidelines shall be comprehended:

   1. Asymptomatic Negative patients will be declared as negative.

   2. Symptomatic Negatives shall be tested by attached real-time RT-PCR
laboratory free of cost.

3. Positive patients will be declared as positive and managed as per existing protocol.

4. For referred symptomatic negative cases on Rapid Antigen Testing, patient ID, Patient name and Contact number, SRF ID used for rapid antigen testing should be communicated to the attached RT-PCR COVID-19 testing lab along with Naopharyngeal/ Oropharyngeal sample collected in VTM.

5. Chief Medical Officer shall ensure that the testing laboratory/hospital shall share the details of test undertaken by these hospitals/Lab on day to day basis.

Secretary (Health) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh

Dated Shimla -9 the

Endst. No . As above
Copy for information and necessary action:

1. The Mission Director, National Health Mission, Himachal Pradesh.
2. The Director Health Services, Himachal Pradesh
3. The Director Health Safety and Regulation, Himachal Pradesh
4. All the District Surveillance Officer, Himachal Pradesh.

Secretary (Health) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh