

के. विजयराघवन

भारत सरकार के प्रमुख वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार

K. VijayRaghavan

Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt. of India



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Prn:SA/COVID-19/2020

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OFFICE MEMORANDUM

The first meeting of the Empowered Committee for COVID-19 Response co-chaired by Dr. Vinod Paul, Member NITI-Aayog and Professor K. VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India constituted to co-ordinate, amongst science agencies, scientists and regulatory bodies, and take speedy decisions on R&D implementation related to the SARS-Cov-2 virus and the COVID-19 disease was held on March 21, 2020.

Indian research institutions and organizations are directed, for speedy implementation of solutions related to COVID-19, as per directives below:

1. National research labs (defined as labs of DBT/DST/CSIR/DRDO/DAE for this directive) are permitted to carry out clinical testing for COVID19 based on self-assessment and willingness to follow established protocols and all applicable reporting regulations as defined by the DHR/ICMR.
2. National research labs are permitted to access samples for COVID19 - related research from any government approved clinical testing site or access clinical samples received by them for testing, subject to ethical approval for such research. Results from such research are required to be expeditiously shared in open formats to maximise impact of research. Clinical care agencies are directed to enrich the open dataset by providing de-identified clinical data.
3. Labs with BSL-3 or BSL-3+ facilities, with DBT/DST/CSIR/DRDO/DAE, are permitted to culture the virus and serve as additional testing and validation sites for research, based on self-assessment of BSL-3 facilities and willingness to follow established protocols as defined by the DHR/ICMR. They may further share reagents and facilities with other national labs to ensure maximum effort for rapid solutions.
4. Hospitals (Centre, State and private), to cooperate with national labs for clinical sample collection where there is an ethical approval in place, subject to capacity for such work and ability to follow established protocols.

(K. VijayRaghavan)

Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India

To,

1. Dr. Vinod Paul, Member NITI-Aayog
2. Secretary, Health Research, DG ICMR
3. Secretary, Department of Science and Technology
4. Secretary, Department of Biotechnology
5. Secretary, DSIR, DG CSIR
6. Secretary, DRDO
7. Secretary, MeITY
8. Secretary, Department of Telecommunications
9. Secretary, Science and Engineering Research Board
10. Director General Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
11. Drugs Controller General of India