



विकास शील  
संयुक्त सचिव  
**VIKAS SHEEL**  
Joint Secretary



भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
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Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
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**D.O. No.** Z-28015/94/2020-TB

**Dated:** 14/05/2020

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, it is of paramount importance to provide uninterrupted TB services during the COVID -19 Pandemic. Technical Advisories for continued TB services have also been provided periodically, by NTEP Division. TB services include, diagnosis, treatment, public health action as well as benefit transfers.

Equipment used for TB diagnosis under NTEP such as CBNAAT (GeneXpert) and Truenat are being used for COVID -19 testing. These are provided to supplement the existing RT PCR capacity in the country.

As per advisory from ICMR, CBNAAT machines available in laboratories with Biosafety level 2 or above are engaged to perform COVID -19 testing. These machines are to be used for TB testing as well. All other machines in the peripheral settings are to continue testing for TB and DR TB and should not be shifted to other COVID -19 testing laboratories.

You are requested to instruct concerned health authorities to ensure uninterrupted services for TB in your respective State/ UT.

warm regards

Yours Sincerely,

(Vikas Sheel)

**To:**

**Principal Secretary (Health) – All States and UTs**

**Copy to**

Mission Directors (NHM)- All States and UTs

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**Talking about AIDS is taking care of each other**  
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