

The whole world is passing through very crucial phase of world COVID-19 pandemic. The burden of daily patients load on healthcare system made it compulsory for Government to provide diagnostic services beyond the present establishments as diagnosis is one of the most important steps in tracing and treatment strategy. In Banaskantha District of Gujarat, only one Laboratory at Banas Medical College, Moriya, Palanpur is shouldering the responsibility and handling around 3000 samples daily. Considering to the larger geographical area of the District and population of more than 35 Lakh with increase in the COVID-19 cases, the District Collector Shri. Anand Patel along with District Health Officials visited College of Veterinary Science and AH, Sardarkrushinagar, Dantiwada (Banaskantha), KU and agreed to establish RT-PCR based COVID-19 Diagnosis Center after reviewing the facilities and expertise available at the Department of Microbiology and Animal Biotechnology. The basic infrastructure and equipment facilities were enhanced and modified for COVID-19 Laboratory at this place and supporting manpower was provided by District Health Authority. All the facilities as per ICMR Guidelines and biosafety point of view, were created within a span of week in the Department and on 17th May, 2021 District Collector, Shri. Anand Patel inaugurated the Centre for RT-PCR testing of COVID-19. This RT-PCR Laboratory cleared all the QC parameters required to get the approval of AIIMS, Jodhpur. Based on the recommendations of AIIMS, Jodhpur ICMR approved Department of Microbiology, College of Veterinary Science & AH, Sardarkrushinagar, KU with collaboration from SDAU as 52nd Government approved RT-PCR Laboratory for COVID-19 in Gujarat.

This Laboratory is catering COVID-19 diagnosis for rural areas mainly of Dantiwada, Deesa and Tharad Taluka of District. In a week's time, more than 1200 samples have been screened. The credit for establishing the Laboratory in the shortest period goes to District Collector, Kamdhenu University, SDAU, District Health Officials viz., Dr. Bharat Mistry, Dr. Garg, Dr. Gadhavi and Dr. D.V. Joshi, Dean, Veterinary College, Sardarkrushnagar, KU. The dedicated team comprising of Veterinary Scientists viz., Dr. K. K. Sharma, Dr. A. C. Patel, Dr. S. K. Mohapatra, Dr. S. S. Patel, Dr. Bhavesh Prajapati and Dr. R. K. Chaudhary invested their technical expertise to make this Laboratory functional. The other departmental staff viz., Dr. Arth Chaudhary, Dr. Samir Raval, Dr. Ratndeeep Singh, Dr. Mahesh Pawar, Dr. Mehul Shrimali and Dr. Rohit Parmar are also supporting various functions of Laboratory. The whole team worked under the guidance of Dr. B S. Chandel and Dr. H. C. Chauhan, Coordinators of the Laboratory. Dr. Hemlatta Sunsara, Nodal Officer and Medical Microbiologist deserves special appreciation for coordination with Health Officials and guiding the team of young Laboratory Technicians. The positive attitude and response of Hon'ble VC, KU, Dr. N. H. Kelawala and Hon'ble VC, SDAU, Dr. R. M. Chauhan and other Officials of KU and SDAU are highly appreciated.





