



सत्यमेव जयते

**प्रोफेसर (डा.) बलराम भार्गव**, पदम श्री

एमडी, डीएम, एफआरसीपी (जी.), एफआरसीपी (ई.), एफएसीसी,  
एफएएचए, एफएएमएस, एफएनएस, एफएएससी, एफ.एन.ए., डी.एस.सी.

**सचिव, भारत सरकार**

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय एवं  
महानिदेशक, आई सी एम आर

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**Dated: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Dear Dr Vyas

This is with reference to your letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 regarding CT (cycle threshold) value for RTPCR test for COVID-19.

2. Globally, the accepted cut-off for Ct value for COVID-19 ranges from 35-40 depending upon the instructions laid down by individual manufacturers.
3. However, ICMR has taken inputs from different virology laboratories across the country to arrive at a single Ct value cut-off based on individual laboratory experiences. As per uniform consensus, a Ct value cut-off of 35 with a good sigmoidal real-time RTPCR curve is acceptable. All patients with a Ct value  $\leq 35$  may be considered as positive while those with Ct value  $> 35$  may be considered as negative. All samples with Ct value  $\leq 35$  with poor sigmoidal curves should be essentially re-tested.
4. Implementing a Ct value cut-off of 24 is not at all advisable as this will lead to missing of several infectious patients and increased disease transmission.

With best regards

Yours sincerely

*Balram Bhargava*

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