

**DHR-ICMR Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory Network Centre  
Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati**

We are happy to inform you that, a Grade-3 Virology **R**esearch and **D**iagnostic **L**aboratory (VRDL) has been established in the Department of Microbiology, SVIMS, under ICMR/DHR, Gov. of India. The **VRDL** scheme was introduced by Department of Health Research - Indian Council of Medical Research as outbreaks of Viral agents is very common in India. In order to strengthen the infrastructure for timely diagnosis of viral epidemics and continuous monitoring of existing as well as new viral strains, the Department of Health Research (DHR) planned to establish a 3-tier VRDLs (Grade 3- Medical college level, Grade 2-State Level and Grade 1- Regional Laboratories) throughout the country. This Scheme was approved by the Cabinet Committee on June 27, 2013 for implementation during the 12th Plan Period (2013-14 to 2016-17).

**Main objectives of this Laboratory are:**

1. To identify as well as to provide early and timely diagnosis of both existing and emerging viral diseases in this region (Chittoor, Anantapur, Kadapa, Kurnool, S.P. Nellore).
2. To monitor and surveillance of these viral diseases and communicate with National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) and other Public Health Authorities to initiate appropriate preventive measures.
3. To coordinate with other state level and regional VRDLs for managing and identifying new virus outbreaks.
4. To undertake research for identification of emerging and newer genetically active/modified agents.

**Note:**

- All the above mentioned tests will be done for free of cost, if the sample is sent with completely filled patient information proforma (section **A to D and F** are mandatory fields to be filled).
- Samples with incompletely filled patient information proforma will not be considered for testing.
- Any other viruses (other than the listed), will be tested on request if necessary.
- As recommended by the ICMR/DHR all tests will be performed only for diagnosis, not for routine screening/prognosis.
- Viruses those classified under BSL 3 and above will not be tested here; however sample will be collected and referred to the Grade-I laboratories for testing.

**List of FREE Investigations available at Virology (DHR-ICMR-VRDL),**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>NAMES OF THE VIRUS</b>	<b>TYPE OF TEST</b>	<b>SPECIMEN REQUIRED</b>
1	Dengue	NS1-Ag ELISA	Serum
2	Dengue**	IgM ELISA	Serum
3	Hepatitis A virus	IgM ELISA	Serum
4	Hepatitis B virus	HBsAg ELISA	Serum
5	Hepatitis C virus	Total Antibodies ELISA	Serum
6	Hepatitis E virus	IgM ELISA	Serum
7	Measles	IgM ELISA	Serum
8	Mumps	IgM ELISA	Serum/CSF
9	Rubella	IgM ELISA	Serum
10	Japanese encephalitis virus**	IgM ELISA	CSF (preferred)/Serum
11	Chikungunya virus**	IgM ELISA	Serum
12	Rotavirus	Antigen ELISA	Stool
13	Epstein–Barr virus	IgM ELISA	Serum
14	Cytomegalovirus	IgM ELISA	Serum
15	Parvovirus B19	IgM ELISA	Serum
16	Herpes simplex virus I & II*	Nested PCR	Vesicular fluid/swab <b>in</b> VTM/CSF/Serum
17	Influenza A (H1N1)/pan09	Real Time RT-PCR	Throat swab and nasal swab <b>in</b> VTM /nasopharyngeal aspirate
18	Respiratory syncytial virus*	Real Time RT-PCR	Throat swab and nasal swab <b>in</b> VTM /nasopharyngeal aspirate

\*Test will be started soon, \*\*test availability subject to kits supply from NVBDCP/DHR

SVIMS, Tirupati

**Prerequisite for submission of specimens for FREE testing under VRDL scheme:**

1. Specimen must be originated from symptomatic cases, test for screening or prognosis of disease will not be entertained.
2. All specimens must accompany completely filled and appropriately signed and sealed DE forms (available in the SVIMS website, department of Microbiology and SVIMS MRD section)

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