

## Centre advises States to conduct sero-prevalence surveys with ICMR

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The Union Government has advised all States/UTs to conduct sero-prevalence surveys in consultation with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to generate district-level data on sero-prevalence which is essential in formulating localized public health response measures.

The Union Health Ministry has referred to the findings of the 4<sup>th</sup> round of National Sero-Prevalence Survey done by ICMR and has advised the States to conduct the sero-prevalence studies in their own States/UTs in consultation with ICMR, so that such studies follow a standardized protocol, and the findings of such studies can then be utilized quickly by the respective State/UT to guide objective, transparent and evidence-based public health response to COVID-19.

It has been pointed out that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has conducted the recent National Sero-survey in 70 districts of India.

The national sero-survey by ICMR was designed to capture the extent of the spread of COVID-19 infection at the national level. Therefore, the national sero-survey results do not reflect the heterogeneity of sero-prevalence between districts and even between States.