

# DRDO joins fight against Coronavirus: To make hand sanitizer for citizens

*DRDO's are now being approached by the state governments  
to not only detect but to also, treat COVID-19 patients*

*By Huma Siddiqui*

Defence Research and Development Establishment, (DRDE) Gwalior, the laboratory has made its own sanitizing formulation. “So far we have made this formulation which has been prepared as per the WHO’s state guidelines, available to the Delhi based DRDO Headquarter,” a senior officer who wished to remain anonymous told Financial Express Online. DRDE, is one of the premier laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It has so far has provided around 14, 398 bottles, each filled with 500 mL of sanitizer formulation to the DRDO Headquarter located in Delhi.

## **Will Other Labs Produce this Formulation?**

The answer is yes. According to the senior officer, “Now many DRDO labs have been authorised to produce the DRDE formulation.”

Efforts are being made to produce this formulation on a large scale so that the shortage in the country can be met with.

Lot of the security agencies in the country are getting hand sanitizer made with the DRDE formulation. These include: Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Defence, Intelligence Bureau, Central Bureau of Investigation, Indian army, Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Technical Research Organisation, Special Protection Group, and others.



## **Another Feather in DRDE’s Cap:**

It has been selected by the Madhya Pradesh state health authorities for undertaking the detection/ tests of COVID-19 cases.

According to the senior officer “These detection/ and tests of COVID-19 cases are being done in accordance with the National Center of Disease Control’s (NCDC) standardized protocols.”

In a recent interview to the Financial Express Online, Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO, had mentioned that the Gwalior based lab has developed diagnostic kits against enlisted agents like Anthrax.

This has been now been used to have a diagnostic system for detecting infectious diseases.

DRDO’s are now being approached by the state governments to not only detect but to also, treat COVID-19 patients.

## **How is the Premier Organisation Protecting its Own?**

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the DRDO has been running awareness programmes regularly and advisory has been issued to all its personnel.

While the Gwalior based DRDE which is a BSL 3 lab has started screening, hand sanitizers have been made available to labs across the country. Also, masks and HOCL disinfectant have been made available to DRDO personnel.

Besides the regular screening, thermal screening of people at the entry has been started and also a 24/7 helpline has been set up and information is being updated every day.

The DRDO labs are being sanitised on a regular basis.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/drdo-joins-fight-against-coronavirus-to-make-hand-sanitizer-for-citizens/1906320/>

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## **Government puts in motion COVID-19 related research across country**

*National research labs have now been directed to carry out clinical testing for COVID-19 based on self-assessment and "willingness to follow established protocols and all applicable reporting regulations" as defined by DHRI/ICMR*

New Delhi: In response to tackling the spread and find a possible cure for the COVID-19, the Government of India has constituted an empowered committee co-chaired by Professor K Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Indian Government and Dr. Vinod Paul, member of Niti Aayog.

The empowered committee, which held its first meeting today, has been set up to “coordinate among science agencies, scientists and regulatory bodies, and take speedy decisions on R&D related to SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19.”

National research labs have now been directed to carry out clinical testing for COVID-19 based on self-assessment and “willingness to follow established protocols and all applicable reporting regulations” as defined by DHRI/ICMR.

These labs include those under Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). The labs have further been permitted access to samples of COVID-19 for research from any government-approved clinical testing site or access clinical samples received by them for testing, subject to ethical approval for such research.

“Clinical care agencies are directed to enrich the open dataset by providing de-identified clinical data,” says a statement issued by the PSA’s office today.

Labs with BSL-3 or BSL 3+ facilities, along with the DBT, DST, CSIR, DRDO and DAE are permitted to culture the virus and serve as additional testing and validation sites for research, based on self-assessment of BSL-3 facilities while following established protocol.

The labs have also been instructed to share their facilities, reagents and data and information regarding the virus to ensure “rapid solutions.” Hospitals will also have to now share their information and database with the scientific agencies and research labs, which includes in clinic sample collection.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/coronavirus/covid-19-research-india-6325859/>