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9 Covid-19

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Focus on tracing 2,127 travellers from U.K.

Samples of 233 passengers have been collected

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BENGALURU

With as many as 2,127 people having arrived from the United Kingdom in Karnataka from December 1 till date, the State Health Department is faced with the mammoth task of monitoring their

health status and tracing their contacts.

According to data from the Health Department, the samples of 233 passengers have been collected for tests so far. Of the 2,127 people, as many as 1,696 have landed in Bengaluru. A total of 179 samples have been collected from Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural and BBMP limits. While 119 are from Mysuru and 58 are from Mangaluru, 31 and 29 are

from Dharwad and Udupi, respectively. Apart from the 179 samples collected from Bengaluru Urban, Rural, and BBMP limits, as many as 13 samples have been collected from Mangaluru and eight from Tunakuru.

Meanwhile, sources said two persons – a 36-year-old mother and six-year-old daughter from Vasanthapura ward in Bommanahalli zone, who landed in the city on December 19 and did not

have a COVID-19 negative report – have tested positive through Rapid Antigen Test (RAT). Their RT-PCR reports are awaited.

“After their report arrives, the samples will undergo genome sequencing to ascertain if the patients have been infected with the new strain. The reports will be sent to NIV, Pune, for validation,” a source said.

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The mother and daughter have been shifted to Victoria Hospital.

Health Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Pandey told *The Hindu* that so far international travellers without a COVID-19 negative report were mandated to undergo 14 days home quarantine. "Those who arrived with a COVID-19 negative report had no quarantine. Those who came without a COVID-19 negative report before the Centre announced a ban on UK flights are being traced and tested," he said.

Meanwhile, the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) discussed the new variant of SARS-CoV-2 circulating in the U.K. and its possible impact in the State.

TAC members, who were of the view that there should be no lapses in contact tracing, said the Health Department had done really well in terms of contact tracing in the initial months.

Testing facility at KIA
The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has launched a round-the-clock

BBMP chief tests positive

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

BBMP Commissioner Manjunath Prasad has tested positive for COVID-19. A press release issued by the BBMP said Mr. Prasad is under quarantine. He has fever and other mild symptoms. He has been admitted to Mallige Hospital in the city.

COVID-19 testing facility for air passengers. In a release, BIAL said the centre certified by NABL and ICMR is located near the arrival area of the terminal. Passengers who opt for the RT-PCR rapid test result can receive their report within 13 minutes. The cost of test Rapid PCR (Abbott ID NOW) is ₹2,400.

"Until the test results are received, those tested will have to wait in a specially demarcated area. Reports will be shared directly with those tested through digital platforms," the release said.