

Coviself- Self testing COVID kit

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In news- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recently approved the country's first Covid-19 self-testing kit for home use.

About Coviself-

- CoviSelf has been developed by **MyLab Discovery Solutions**, a Pune-based molecular company.
- It uses a **rapid antigen test**, in which a nasal swab sample is tested for the virus and gives **results within 15 minutes**.
- Anyone can collect their own nasal sample and test it for SARS-CoV-2.
- Taking the test takes hardly two minutes and **costs Rs 250**.
- ICMR has **advised this test only for those who have symptoms or are high-risk contacts of positive patients** and need to conduct a test at home.
- If positive, the person will be considered Covid-19 positive and **will not require RT-PCR as a confirmatory test**.
- If a person tests negative but has symptoms, he or she has to undergo an RT-PCR test.
- This test is synced with a **mobile app, CoviSelf**, which will help directly feed the positive case's report on the ICMR portal.
- This test is **not advised for general screening in public places** of hawkers, show owners, or commuters.
- A person is positive for Covid-19 if two lines appear on the testing card – on marker 't' for the **testing line**, and 'c' for **quality control line**.
- If the person is negative, a single line appears on

marker 'c'.

- If the result takes more than 20 minutes to show, or if a line does not flash across marker 'c', then the test is invalid.
- A rapid-result all-in-one test kit produced by Lucira Health was given emergency use authorization in the US in November, 2020.
- Similar kits have been approved in Europe and South Korea too.