Amid Omicron threat, Mumbai airport reduces rapid RT-PCR test price to Rs.1,975

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The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) on Wednesday said that it has cut down charges for the rapid RT-PCR test at its facility to ₹1,975.

This came after the Maharashtra government slashed the price of the RT-PCR test.

"The lowering of the rapid RT-PCR test charges to ₹1,975 is in line with the latest directive from the Government of Maharashtra," CSMIA said in a statement.

The standard RT-PCR test will continue to cost ₹500, it added.

The rapid RT-PCR charges at the Adani Group-owned Mumbai airport earlier stood at ₹3,900, reduced from ₹4,500, after the state government wrote to the additional health secretary in the Union health ministry seeking its intervention.

The state government had said that though the operator has agreed to bring down the charges for the rapid RT-PCR test, they were still "very high" compared to the rates being charged by other airports such as Bengaluru, Chennai and Kochi.

This comes as stricter norms for international passengers were implemented on 2 December due to mounting concerns over the new Covid variant Omicron.

The Union government has asked states and Union Territories to ensure RT-PCR tests for travellers coming from 'at-risk' countries on the first day of arrival and retesting on the eighth day.

Passengers coming from 'at-risk' countries to six major Indian airports have to compulsorily pre-book for the on-arrival RT-PCR test from 20 December onwards.

The six airports are in Delhi, Mumbai Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

According to the Union health ministry, 'at-risk countries include those in Europe including the United Kingdom, South Africa, Brazil, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Hong Kong, China, Ghana, Mauritius, New Zealand and Israel.

Further, around 2% of the incoming international passengers will have to undergo randomised Covid testing.

The country currently has 63 cases of the new strain so far.

Two foreign nationals who arrived in Hyderabad from abroad, and a seven-year-old boy from West Bengal tested positive for Omicron on Wednesday.

Delhi reported four more cases of Omicron while eight more persons tested positive for the Covid-19 variant in Maharashtra on Tuesday.