

# Factsheet by SDC Foundation on

## Haridwar Maha Kumbh 2021

(Updated – June 16, 2021)

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### Period of Report : April 1 – 30, 2021

#### Haridwar District

Tests : 600291  
Cases : 17375  
Positivity Rate : 2.89%

#### Other 12 Districts of Uttarakhand

Tests : 442432  
Cases : 62735  
Positivity Rate : 14.18%

#### Key Data Findings :

1. 58% of all Covid19 tests in Uttarakhand during the above period, April 1 – 30, 2021 took place in Haridwar district.
2. Positivity Rate in Haridwar district is 80% less than the Positivity Rate in other 12 districts of Uttarakhand during April 1 – 30, 2021.

#### Background:

1. Maha Kumbh Mela was conducted during the period April 1-30, 2021.
2. The "Kumbh Mela Area" spans large parts of Haridwar district and the Rishikesh Region that includes the town of Rishikesh in Dehradun district, Muni Ki Reti in Tehri district and Swargashram in Pauri district.

#### Comments and Observations:

1. Questions were often raised on the extraordinarily low positivity rate of Haridwar district during the course of the Kumbh Mela. However, authorities had turned a blind eye towards this reality.
2. Covid19 test data and its results for the "Kumbh Mela Area" were never shared in the public domain. The daily Covid19 state health bulletin only informed about cases, tests, deaths, recoveries and other key metrics for the 13 districts of Uttarakhand. Thus, the complete picture for the "Kumbh Mela Area" has never been available.
3. The on-going investigation should not only be centred on private labs but should cover all government labs, all agencies and all labs that were engaged by authorities during the one-month Maha Kumbh Mela.
4. The guilty labs and officials, if any should be punished as per the law of the land.
5. The alleged irregularities have cast a major shadow of doubt on entire Covid19 data being reported in Uttarakhand.

6. There is a need for judicial investigation into the matter. The investigation should not be handled by state government agencies or functionaries alone.
7. Once details are clearer; the Government of Uttarakhand should release a white paper on Covid19 testing in the one-month Maha Kumbh Mela.
8. If the final investigation results show data inaccuracies, then the Government of Uttarakhand should not hesitate in accepting errors. In such a scenario, it should also not hesitate to change the overall state data.
9. Incorrect conclusions on the basis of false figures weaken the fight against the pandemic.
10. Public participation is key in the fight against the pandemic. Complete transparency is the need of the hour to lift morale and encourage people to adopt covid appropriate behaviour.

**About SDC Foundation:**

SDC Foundation is Dehradun based not-for-profit engaged in research and communication on issues of climate change and public health in Uttarakhand. Write to us at [contactsdcuk@gmail.com](mailto:contactsdcuk@gmail.com)

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