

## COVID-19 Swab Testing Information (FAQs)

1) Is the analysis accredited?  
No

2) How is the method performed?  
RT-PCR (Real-Time PCR)

3) Protocol reference:  
WHO (World Health Organization)

[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/whoinhouseassays.pdf?sfvrsn=de3a76aa\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/whoinhouseassays.pdf?sfvrsn=de3a76aa_2)

4) Test results:  
Positive / Negative for SARS-CoV-2

In the case of positive detection, the test report shall include a statement that RNA from coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 has been detected.

5) Can multiple locations be swabbed with ONE swab?  
It is not recommended due to:

- considerable loss of sensitivity/result per 25cm<sup>2</sup> - if you swab multiple surfaces and have contamination in one area, you may lose collecting viruses on other surfaces because the swab has a limited surface area to retain residue, virus or other contaminants.
- risk of cross-contamination – it is recommended to use one swab per location, so the virus is not transported to other locations.
- it is recommended to follow your current Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) protocol for swabbing.

6) Shelf Life:  
Swabs can be kept at room temperature for at least 6 months before using them. After sampling they are stable without refrigeration but should be sent to the lab as soon as possible. The RNA of the virus remains stable for up to 14 days. Due to the buffer used, the virus will be inactivated and is no longer infectious.

7) What are the LOQ and LOD?  
Qualitative test: Limit of detection: test system shows 5 -7 RNA copies /  $\mu$ l

In tests on surfaces, positive results have been demonstrated with swabs on approx. 10,000 bacteriophages / 25cm<sup>2</sup> (for safety reasons bacteriophages are used as test organisms in the laboratory). This is realistically achievable in a coughing outbreak of an infected person.

8) What is the uncertainty of measurement?  
No uncertainty of measurement can be determined for qualitative results.

9) Specificity for the tested microorganisms: 100%

**Disclaimer:** “\*Licensed test kits for virus RNA extraction and SARS-CoV-2 detection are used. Quality assurance is fully done by positive and negative controls. Method was not validated inhouse and is not officially FDA approved.”