

16.06.2022

Detectability of the Omicron subtype BA.5 with COVID-19 Ag tests of nal von minden GmbH

Dear Sir or Madam,

since the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, several mutations of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus have emerged, resulting in a multitude of viral variants. The BA.5 subtype of the omicron variant (B.1.1.529), which has been spreading since early April 2022, also has a large number of mutations. The majority of these (31 mutations) are located in the spike protein, which the virus uses to recognize its host cells.^{1,2}

However, our COVID-19 antigen rapid tests and self-tests detect the nucleocapsid protein, which encloses the RNA of the virus. Only five mutations are present in the N protein of the Omicron subtype BA.5. **Our previous laboratory results with recombinant proteins of different virus variants confirm that the mutations in the N protein of subtype BA.5 have no influence on the test performance of the COVID-19 antigen rapid tests of nal von minden GmbH.**

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1038404/Technical_Briefing_30.pdf

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1067672/Technical-Briefing-40-8April2022.pdf

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