

Ref. No: 132100621
From: Public
Date: 10/06/21
Subject: Polymerase chain reaction test information request (PCR)

REQUEST & RESPONSE

1. What is the number of cycles the test has been run through?

Verification and validation performed at STHK to the UKAS ISO: 15189 standard.

2. Has the cycle number been changed? And if so for what reason?

Not changed

3. Why does the swab require deep nasal prodding if you can contract SARS-COV-2 from saliva droplets? Would a mouth swab not be sufficient?

The parameters of the Freedom of Information Act covers recorded information that is held by a public authority , this question does not fall under the remit of FOIA.

4. Do blood tests show infection and/or antibodies to SAR-COV-2?

Blood tests show antibodies to SAR-COV-2

5. What substances/materials are on the PCR test swab?

There are no standard materials as tests swabs are available from many suppliers.

6. Has there been any recorded adverse reactions to the PCR test, if so how many and what are their age group?

No

As the PCR test is carried out in vitro there have been no adverse reactions

7. Is there a less invasive test for children?

No

8. How accurate is a PCR test?

PCR tests are accurate

9. What is the method for PCR tests in the lab? Length of time to get result?
Are random viral cultures performed to validate testing?

Methods used:

Hologic Panther length of time to result 11 hours

Cepheid GeneXpert length of time to result 1 hour

SeroSep length of time to result 4 hours

Q32 length of time to result 4 hours

Samba length of time to result 2 hours

Routinely all positive samples are referred for whole genome sequencing to Public Health England consequently random viral cultures are not appropriate.

10. Do false positives get recorded? What is the number of false positives?

All positive results are confirmed, if they do not confirm a repeat sample is requested.

11. An article in The Lancet Medical Journal states that the PCR test can detect virus fragments for up to 100 days post infection, can you confirm this?

This Information is not held by the Trust

12. Can you confirm if the PCR test identifies genetic material or active infectious disease?

The PCR test identifies genetic material

13. Does a positive result mean you have SARS-COV-2?

A positive result will be interpreted clinically along with symptoms.

14. Who has access to my confidential test information and where is this information stored?

UKAS accredited laboratory, only appropriate staff have access

15. Who manufactures the PCR tests?

Please see question 9

16. If I were to have multiple tests within 2 weeks, would that be recorded as 1 case or multiple cases?

This is recorded as multiple tests but one case.

17. What is the number of people tested using PCR test that has no symptoms?

This Information is not held by the Trust

18. And finally can you tell me if you have the data of SARS-COV-2 going through Robert Kochs Postulates?

No, not appropriate