

Dear Editor,

On behalf of our 88 co-authors in the European COVID-19 microbiological laboratories group, ^{5.1.2a} ^{5.1.2e}, ^{5.1.2e} and myself would like to submit the manuscript entitled "*Meta-analysis of the clinical performance of commercial SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid, antigen and antibody tests up to 22 August 2020*" as a regular article to Eurosurveillance. We submitted this earlier as rapid communication with ID D-20-01480. In your response, you indicated that the manuscript should be resubmitted as a regular article, taking into account the reviewer comments. We have done this and in addition our replies to the reviewer comments are uploaded in a separate document.

The manuscript combines clinical performance data on nucleic acid, antigen and antibody commercial tests from 12 EU Member States that were previously not published in peer reviewed journals, with data from 157 public studies. The latter were retrieved based on eight systematic reviews, two live databases and a systematic search.

Altogether, just shy of 115 000 index test results have been included and analysed, resulting in pooled clinical sensitivity and specificity values for the corresponding commercial tests. A subset of the results, for those tests and targets that have sufficient number of samples, is shown in the paper. This is split up by antigen and nucleic acid point of care (POC) tests, non-POC nucleic acid tests, and antibody tests.

To our knowledge, this paper is possibly by far the largest such study to date, and including recent data up to 22 August. Especially the nucleic acid and antigen POC tests are a hot topic at present within the broader discussion on safely shortening quarantine duration through the use of (repeated) testing. We therefore hope that, if the paper is accepted, a timely publication will be possible. This is also the reason we originally submitted the paper as a rapid communication.

We thank you for your consideration of our manuscript and look forward to your decision concerning its suitability for publication.

Kind regards,

^{5.1.2e}, ^{5.1.2e} and ^{5.1.2e}