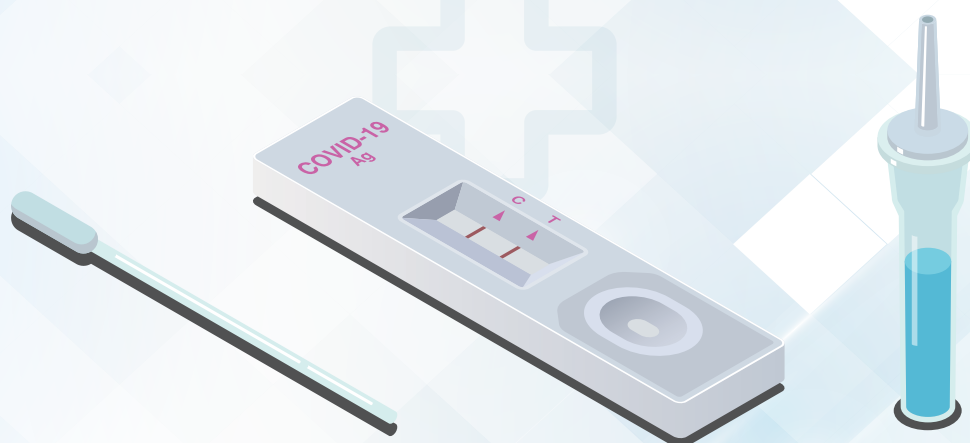


# COVID-19 SELF TEST KIT

CE1434



## 新型冠狀病毒抗原檢測試劑 (SARS-Cov-2) Antigen Test Kit



## 自我檢測套裝



Distributed by Acc Biotect Limited

Website: [www.accbiotect.com](http://www.accbiotect.com) Email: [deepblue@accbiotect.com](mailto:deepblue@accbiotect.com)

Address:  
Unit 11D, On Shong Industrial Bldg,  
2-16 Wo Liu Hang Rad, Hong Kong



ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY CO.,LTD.  
4th Floor,D-1#Zone, Pearl Industrial Park, 106 Innovation Avenue,  
High-Tech Development Zone, 230088 Hefei, Anhui, China



Luxus Lebenswelt GmbH  
Kochstr.1,47877, Willich, Germany



1件裝



## 紙箱包裝

1件/盒, 500盒/箱

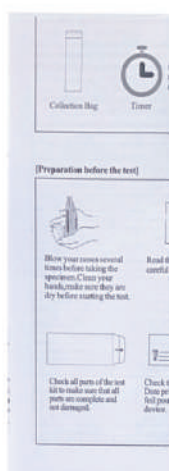
盒尺寸: 145 x 65 x 20mm

箱尺寸: 59.5 x 49.5 x 35cm

毛重 18.5kg



包裝盒



說明書



檢測裝置

提取管1



提取管2



提取試劑的抗原提取管



消毒棉棒



收集袋

測試套裝包含：

包裝盒/說明書/檢測裝置

含0.4ml提取試劑的抗原提取管（提取管1/提取管2）

消毒棉棒/收集袋



# 新型冠狀病毒抗原檢測試劑 (SARS-Cov-2) Antigen Test Kit

## 產品表現

靈敏度 96.4% | 特異性 99.8% | 高精準度

## 產品特點

簡單易用  
快速自我檢測，15分鐘即驗即知  
可檢測新冠病毒、Omicron及Delta變種病毒  
對無症狀感染及早期感染檢測有高精準度  
技術由英國大學研發  
有效期24個月

## 國際機構認證

歐盟認證CE1434

德國 Germany BfArM Self Test List and Professional Use Test List

法國 French ANSM Self test and Professional use test registration

意大利 Italy Self Test Registration

瑞士 Switzerland Self Test Registration

## 英國政府驗證

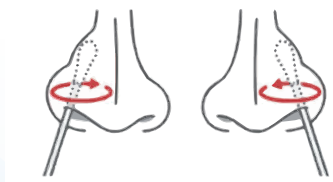
英國公共衛生部(PHE) 聯同牛津大學獨立評估了衛生及社會關懷部 (DHSC) 推薦的140 款快速抗原檢測試劑。只有少數能通過3A期，我們的試劑甚至通過了3B期。這意味著我們的測試在多種病毒的情況下具有非常高的準確性，並且能夠檢測到無症狀感染的患者和不同新的變種病毒。

# 產品使用說明



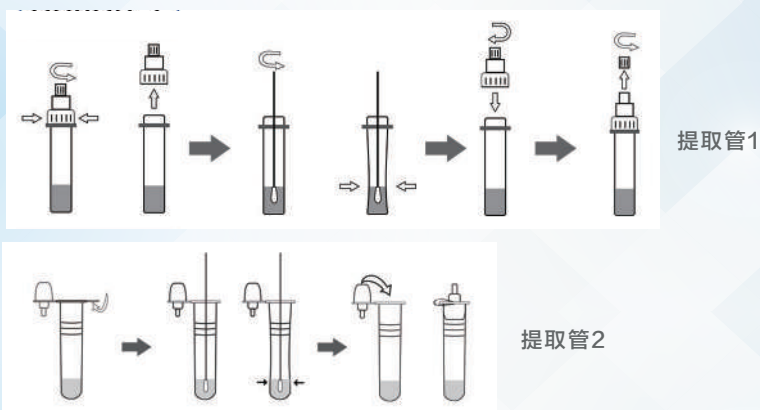
使用教學影片及  
電子說明書

## 1. 採集樣本



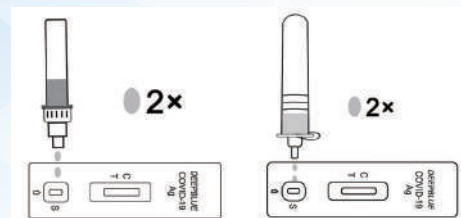
把棉棒插入鼻腔，棉棒尖端應插入2厘米；把棉棒在鼻腔內側轉動最少5個圈。使用相同的棉棒，對另一個鼻腔重複相同過程，以確保收集到足夠數量的樣本。

## 2. 準備樣本



將拭子標本放入提取管中，轉動拭子約10秒，將拭子頭壓在管壁上3次，使拭子中的抗原釋放。將噴嘴牢牢按在提管上。

## 3. 測試



垂直握住提取管，將兩滴測試樣品加入加樣孔 (S) 中，並開始計時。

## 4. 讀取測試結果



於15分鐘讀取結果，並於30分鐘內讀取，否則結果失效。



# CERTIFICATE

**EC Certificate No. 1434-IVDD-445/2021**

**EC Design-examination  
Directive 98/79/EC concerning  
*in vitro* diagnostic medical devices**

Polish Centre for Testing and Certification certifies  
that manufactured by:

**Anhui Deepblue Medical Technology Co., Ltd.**  
**4th Floor,D-1#Zone, Pearl Industrial Park, 106**  
**Innovation Avenue, High-Tech Development Zone,**  
**230088 Hefei, Anhui, China**

***in vitro* diagnostic medical devices  
for self-testing**

## **COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) Antigen Test Kit (Colloidal Gold)**

**SL030101NST-1,SL030101NST-2, SL030101NST-3, SL030101NST-5, SL030101NST-6, SL030101NST-7, SL030101NST-8,  
SL030101NST-9, SL030101NST-10, SL030101NST-11, SL030101NST-12, SL030101NST-15, SL030101NST-16, SL030101NST-  
17, SL030101NST-18, SL030101NST-19, SL030101NST-20, SL030101NST-25**

in terms of design documentation, comply with requirements  
of Annex III (Section 6) to Directive 98/79/EC (as amended)  
implemented into Polish law,

as evidenced by the audit conducted by the PCBC

Validity of the Certificate: from **30.07.2021** to **27.05.2024**

The date of issue of the Certificate: **30.07.2021**

The date of the first issue of the Certificate: **22.07.2021**



Issued under the Contract No. **MD-96/2021**  
Application No: **183a/2021**  
Certificate bears the qualified signature.  
Warsaw, **30.07.2021**  
Module **A1**

Anna  
Małgorzata  
Wyroba  
Vice-President  
Elektronicznie  
podpisany przez Anna  
Małgorzata Wyroba  
Data: 2021.07.30  
10:31:11 +02'00'

 An official EU website



Live, work, travel in the EU

# COVID-19 In Vitro Diagnostic Devices and Test Methods Database

[Home](#) > [COVID-19 In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices](#) >

COVID-19 In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device - detail

## COVID-19 In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device - detail

### COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Antigen Test Kit (Colloidal Gold) - Nasal Swab

Manufactured by Anhui Deep Blue Medical Technology Co., Ltd, China - [www.dbluemedical.com/](http://www.dbluemedical.com/) 

Device  
identification  
number  
1815

CE Marking      ✓ Yes

HSC  
common list      ✓ Yes

HSC mutual  
recognition      ✓ Yes

Format      Near POC / POC

Physical  
Support      Lateral flow

Target      Antigen



Specimen            Anterior nasal swab, Nasal swab

Commercial        Commercialised  
Status

Last Update        2021-07-07 05:18:58 CET


Comments

Please check attached UK national systematic evaluation report with the detailed data from UK government validation, performed by University of Oxford. Public Health England Porton Down. 132 brands were tested and only 4 suppliers have passed all of the Phase 3B validation, including ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL. The link of this report: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.01.13.21249563v1.full-text> Please check attached UK national systematic evaluation report with the detailed data from UK government validation, performed by University of Oxford. Public Health England Porton Down. 132 brands were tested and only 4 suppliers have passed all of the Phase 3B validation, including ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL. The link of this report: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.01.13.21249563v1.full-text> And we have attached the MHRA registration certificate. Also the registration in Germany, registration in Italy, registration in Portugal and so on.

Show HSC list status history ▼

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# Germany BfArM Self Test List



Bundesinstitut  
für Arzneimittel  
und Medizinprodukte

Antigen-Tests zum direkten Erregernachweis des Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2

Impressum

Administration

Die Liste wird kontinuierlich aktualisiert, sobald seitens des BfArM weitere entsprechende Sonderzulassungen erteilt wurden, diese, z.B. durch Ablauf der Befristung der Sonderzulassung oder Abschluss der regulären Konformitätsbewertung und CE-Kennzeichnung, nicht mehr bestehen oder das Verfahren zur Aufnahme CE-gekennzeichneter Tests zur Eigenanwendung in die Liste erfolgreich abgeschlossen wurde.

Eine entsprechende Marktübersicht nach §1 Satz 1 TestV zu Antigen-Tests zum direkten Erregernachweis des Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, **die vom Hersteller zur professionellen Anwendung zweckbestimmt sind („Schnelltests“)** finden Sie unter folgendem Link.

Weitere Hinweise zur vom BfArM bereitgestellten Liste sowie zu den der Sonderzulassung durch das BfArM, Aufnahme in die Liste und ggfs. auch Streichung von der Liste zugrundeliegenden Verfahren und Kriterien finden Sie auf unserer Webseite zu Antigentests auf SARS-CoV-2.

Alle Daten gemäß Übermittlung des Herstellers, verbindlich sind ausschließlich die Angaben in den jeweiligen Gebrauchsinformationen.

Die Angabe „Evaluierung PEI“ bildet die entsprechende, auf der Webseite des Paul-Ehrlich-Instituts (PEI) veröffentlichte Übersicht zur dortigen vergleichenden Evaluierung der Sensitivität von SARS-CoV-2 Antigenschnelltests ab (siehe Webseite des PEI).

- „Ja“ bedeutet, dass der Test bereits mit positivem Ergebnis durch das PEI evaluiert wurde.
- „Nein“ bedeutet, dass bislang keine entsprechenden Testergebnisse vorliegen.

Im Falle einer negativen Evaluierung durch das PEI streicht das BfArM den entsprechenden CE-gekennzeichneten Test von seiner Liste. Für eine Sonderzulassung ist eine positive Evaluierung des PEI eine zwingende Voraussetzung.

ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL

Los

Aktionen

Zurücksetzen


Nach 'ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL' suchen

Test-ID	Name des Tests	Evaluierung PEI	Hersteller		Europäischer Bevollmächtigter		Probennahme	Sensitivität		Spezifität		Gebrauchsan...
			Name	Land	Name	Land		%	95%iges Vertrauensint...	%	95%iges Vertrauensint...	
AT1190/21	COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Antigenest...	Nein	ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY CO.,LTD.	CN	Luxus Lebe...	DE	nasal	96,40	90,8 - 98,2	99,80	94,4 - 99,9	<a href="#">Link öffnen</a>

1 Zeilen ausgewählt

< 1 > 1 - 1 von 1

# Germany BfArMProfessional Use Test List



Bundesinstitut  
für Arzneimittel  
und Medizinprodukte

Antigen-Tests zum direkten Erregernachweis des Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2

Impressum

Administration

Alle Daten gemäß Übermittlung des Herstellers, verbindlich sind ausschließlich die Angaben in den jeweiligen Gebrauchsinformationen.

Die Angabe „Evaluierung PEI“ bildet die entsprechende, auf der Webseite des Paul-Ehrlich-Instituts (PEI) veröffentlichte Übersicht zur dortigen vergleichenden Evaluierung der Sensitivität von SARS-CoV-2 Antigenschnelltests ab (siehe Webseite des PEI).

- „Ja“ bedeutet, dass der Test bereits mit positivem Ergebnis durch das PEI evaluiert wurde.
- „Nein“ bedeutet, dass bislang keine entsprechenden Testergebnisse vorliegen.

Im Falle einer negativen Evaluierung durch das PEI streicht das BfArM den entsprechenden CE-gekennzeichneten Test von seiner Liste. Für eine Sonderzulassung ist eine positive Evaluierung des PEI eine zwingende Voraussetzung.

**Hinweis: Eine aktuelle Übersicht der SARS-CoV-2-Tests, die von den europäischen Mitgliedsstaaten gegenseitig für COVID-19-Testergebnisbescheinigungen anerkannt werden und damit für das „EU Digital COVID-19 Certificate“ berücksichtigt werden können, finden Sie im entsprechenden Dokument der Europäischen Kommission: [Link zum Dokument](#)**

ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL

Los

Aktionen

Zurücksetzen

Nach 'ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL' suchen

Test-ID	Handelsname	Evaluierung PEI	Hersteller			Europäischer Bevollmächtigter			Testort*	Sensitivität		Spezifität		Gebrauchsa...
			Name	Stadt	Land	Name	Stadt	Land		%	95%iges Vertrauensintervall	%	95%iges Vertrauensintervall	
AT031/20	Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Antigen Test (Colloidal Gold)	Ja	Anhui Deepblue Medical Technology Co. Ltd.	Hefei, Anhui	CN	Luxus Lebenswelt GmbH	Willich	DE	POC (ohne Gerät)	96,40	90,8 - 98,2	99,80	94,4 - 99,9	<a href="#">Link...</a>
AT535/21	COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Antigen Test Kit (Colloidal Gold) - Savila	Nein	ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY CO.,Ltd	Hefei	CN	Luxus Lebenswelt GmbH	Willich	DE	POC (ohne Gerät)	97,10	90,8 - 98,2	99,80	94,4 - 99,9	<a href="#">Link...</a>
AT1231/21	COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Antigen Test Midstream - Saliva	Nein	ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY CO.,LTD.	Hefei, China	CN	Luxus Lebenswelt GmbH	Willich	DE	POC (ohne Gerät)	97,50	90,9 - 99,2	99,50	94,9 - 99,9	<a href="#">Link...</a>

1 Zeilen ausgewählt

< 1 > 1 - 3 von 3

# French ANSM Self test and Professional use test registration



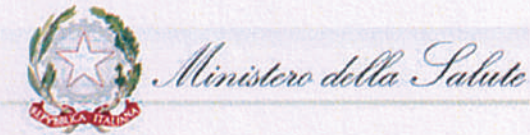
**MINISTÈRE  
DES SOLIDARITÉS  
ET DE LA SANTÉ**  
*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

## LISTE DE TESTS COVID-19

Cette liste de tests a été générée depuis la plateforme covid-19.sante.gouv.fr suite à un filtre appliqué aux tests présents sur la plateforme.

Nom du test	Sous-type de test	Fabricant	Distributeur	Marquage CE	Conformité HAS	Validation UE	Type de test	Cibles	Type de prélèvement
COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Antigen Test Kit (Colloidal Gold)	Antigénique non automatisé (dont TROD)	Anhui Deepblue Medical Technology		Oui	Oui	Oui	Antigénique		Nasopharyngé
COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Antigen Test Kit	Autotest	ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY		Oui	Oui	Non	Antigénique	N	Nasal





[Stampa](#) | [Scarica il dataset](#)

Elenco dei dispositivi medici

Criteri di ricerca:  
Denominazione fabbricante:  
Codice fiscale fabbricante:  
Partita IVA / VAT number fabbricante:  
Codice nazione fabbricante:  
Denominazione mandatario:  
Codice fiscale mandatario:  
Partita IVA / VAT number mandatario:  
Codice nazione mandatario:  
Tipologia dispositivo:  
Identificativo di registrazione attribuito dal sistema BD/RDM: 2145379  
Codice attribuito dal fabbricante:  
Nome commerciale e modello:  
Classificazione CND:  
Descrizione CND:  
Classe CE (valida solo per dispositivi medici di classe, impiantabili attivi e IVD):

Elenco dispositivi individuati

Dati aggiornati al:15/08/2021

DISPOSITIVO MEDICO/ASSEMBLATO								FABBRICANTE/ASSEMBLATORE					
TIPOLOGIA DISPOSITIVO	IDENTIFICATIVO DI REGISTRAZIONE BD/RDM	ISCRITTO AL REPERTORIO	CODICE ATTRIBUITO DAL FABBRICANTE/ASSEMBLATORE	NOME COMMERCIALE CND E MODELLO	CLASSE CE	DATA PRIMA PUBBLICAZIONE	DATA FINE IMMISSIONE IN COMMERCIO	RUOLO AZIENDA	DENOMINAZIONE	CODICE FISCALE	PARTITA IVA/VAT NUMBER	NAZIONE	
Dispositive	2145379	S	SLO30101NST-1; SLO30101NST-5	COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) ANTIGEN TEST KIT (COLLOIDAL GOLD) - SELF- TEST	W0105040619 CORONAVIRUS	ST - Test autodiagnostics (non inclusi nell'ali. II)	06/08/2021	FABBRICANTE	ANHUI DEEP BLUE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY CO.,LTD			CN	
				MANDATARIO				LUXUS LEBENSWELT GMBH		DE305829099	DE		

<< < Pagina:1 > >> Num. Pagine:1 Num. Dispositivi:1

Italy Self Test Registration



17.09.2021

I test rapidi per uso proprio sono convalidati solo per tamponi nasali e dovrebbero essere usati solo a scopo di conseguenza. Le informazioni su come utilizzare i test rapidi sono disponibili sul sito internet dell'UFSP «Test COVID-19».

Hersteller Fabricant Azienda		Antigen Schnelltest Tests rapides antigéniques Test antigenici rapidi
Anhui Deepblue Medical Technology CO., LTD	China	COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Antigen Test Kit

<sup>1</sup> Diese Liste beinhaltet SARS-CoV-2-Antigen-Schnelltests, die die Anforderungen nach Art. 24 der Covid-19-Verordnung erfüllen und zudem entweder eine CE-Zertifizierung als Produkt zur Eigenanwendung einer benannten Stelle besitzen oder eine Ausnahmebewilligung durch Swissmedic als Produkt zur Eigenanwendung besitzen. Cettdisteinclutestestrapidepoulairecherchedel'antigendusARS-CoV-2quiremplissentlesexigencesdel'art24del'ordonnanceCOVID-19etquisontsoitcertifiéCE comme dispositif d'autotest par un organisme notifié ou qui ont une dérogation de Swissmedic pour l'auto-application. Questelencomprendetestrapipeperl'antigenSARS-CoV-2hesoddisfanirequisitidell'art24dell'ordinanzCOVID-19chehannunacertificazionCE dipartediun organismo notificato come prodotto per uso proprio o un'esenzione di Swissmedic come prodotto per uso proprio.

## Switzerland Self Test Registration



# Certificate

No. Q5 003706 0001 Rev. 01

**Holder of Certificate:** **ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY CO.,LTD.**  
4th Floor, D-1# Zone  
Pearl Industrial Park  
106 Innovation Avenue, High-Tech Development Zone  
230088 Hefei, Anhui  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**Certification Mark:**



**Scope of Certificate:** Design and Development, Production and Distribution of In Vitro Diagnostic Reagents by Colloidal Gold and Enzyme Chemical Reaction Method, Medical Ultrasonic Couplant, Acetowhite Solution, Epithelial Tissue Staining Solution, Rapid Test for Vaginitis(Polyamines) and Cell Preservation Solution

The Certification Body of TÜV SÜD Product Service GmbH certifies that the company mentioned above has established and is maintaining a quality management system, which meets the requirements of the listed standard(s). All applicable requirements of the testing and certification regulation of TÜV SÜD Group have to be complied with. For details and certificate validity see: [www.tuvsud.com/ps-cert?q=cert:Q5 003706 0001 Rev. 01](http://www.tuvsud.com/ps-cert?q=cert:Q5 003706 0001 Rev. 01)

**Report No.:** SH21130301

**Valid from:** 2021-06-22

**Valid until:** 2024-06-21

**Date,** 2021-06-16

Christoph Dicks  
Head of Certification/Notified Body



# Certificate

**No. Q5 003706 0001 Rev. 01**

**Applied Standard(s):** EN ISO 13485:2016  
Medical devices - Quality management systems -  
Requirements for regulatory purposes  
(ISO 13485:2016)  
DIN EN ISO 13485:2016

**Facility(ies):** ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY CO.,LTD.  
4th Floor, D-1# Zone, Pearl Industrial Park, 106 Innovation  
Avenue, High-Tech Development Zone, 230088 Hefei, Anhui,  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

See Scope of Certificate



## DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

MANUFACTURER: ANHUI DEEPBLUE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY CO.,LTD.  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor,D-1# Zone, Pearl Industrial Park, 106 Innovation Avenue,  
High-Tech Development Zone , 230088 Hefei, Anhui, People's  
Republic of China

EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE: Luxus Lebenswelt GmbH  
Kochstr. 1, 47877, Willich, Germany

PRODUCT: COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Antigen Test Kit (Colloidal Gold)

Models: SEE ATTACHMENT

REF: SEE ATTACHMENT

CLASSIFICATION: SELF-TESTING

EDMA CODE: 15 70 90 90 00

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT ROUTE: Following the procedure relating to the EC Declaration of Conformity set out in Annex III Article 6 of Directive 98/79/EC.

WE HEREWITH DECLARE THAT THE ABOVE MENTIONED PRODUCTS MEET THE PROVISIONS OF THE COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/79/EC. ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION IS RETAINED UNDER THE PREMISES OF THE MANUFACTURER.

THE MANUFACTURER IS EXCLUSIVELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY.

STANDARDS APPLIED: EN ISO 13485:2016  
EN ISO 18113-1:2011, EN ISO 18113-4:2011, EN 13612:  
2002/AC:2002, EN ISO 23640:2015, EN 13641: 2002, EN ISO  
15223-1: 2016, EN 13975:2003, EN 13532:2002, EN ISO  
14971:2012.

NOTIFIED BODY: Polish Center for Testing and Certification  
469 Puławska Street, 02-844 Warsaw, Poland

(EN) CERTIFICATE(S): 2021-07-30

START OF CE-MARKING: 2021-07-30

PLACE, DATE OF ISSUE: HEFEI, 2021-09-15

SIGNATURE:

CHEN FENGLING

GENERAL MANAGER



EC Declaration of Conformity

DOC-COVID-19 Ag(N/1)



**DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY  
ATTACHMENT**

Specification	REF
1 piece per box	SL030101NST-1
2 pieces per box	SL030101NST-2
3 pieces per box	SL030101NST-3
5 pieces per box	SL030101NST-5
6 pieces per box	SL030101NST-6
7 pieces per box	SL030101NST-7
8 pieces per box	SL030101NST-8
9 pieces per box	SL030101NST-9
10 pieces per box	SL030101NST-10
11 pieces per box	SL030101NST-11
12 pieces per box	SL030101NST-12
15 pieces per box	SL030101NST-15
16 pieces per box	SL030101NST-16
17 pieces per box	SL030101NST-17
18 pieces per box	SL030101NST-18
19 pieces per box	SL030101NST-19
20 pieces per box	SL030101NST-20
25 pieces per box	SL030101NST-25



Allgemeine Anzeigepflicht nach §§ 25 und 30 Abs. 2 MPG  
 General Obligation to Notify pursuant to §§ 25 and 30 (2) Medical Devices Act, MPG

Formblatt für In-vitro-Diagnostika / Form for In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices

Zuständige Behörde / Competent authority			
	Code DE/CA20		
	Bezeichnung / Name Bezirksregierung Düsseldorf, Dezernat 24		
	Staat / State Deutschland		Land / Federal state Nordrhein-Westfalen
	Ort / City Düsseldorf		Postleitzahl / Postal code 40474
	Straße, Haus-Nr. / Street, house no. Cecilienallee 2		
	Telefon / Phone +49-211-4750		Telefax / Fax +49-211-4752671
	E-Mail / E-mail dez24.mpg@brd.nrw.de		

Anzeige / Notification	
Registrierdatum bei der zuständigen Behörde Registration date at competent authority 24.08.2021	Registriernummer / Registration number DE/CA20/01-IVD-Luxuslebenswelt-38/21
Rechtsgrundlage / legal basis S Medizinprodukte (98/79/EG) / German Medical Device Act (98/79/EG) £ Verordnung (EU) 2017/746 (IVDR) / Regulation (EU) 2017/746 (IVDR)	
Typ der Anzeige / Notification type £ Erstanzeige / Initial notification S Änderungsanzeige / Notification of change £ Widerrufsanzeige / Notification of withdrawal	
Frühere Registriernummer bei Änderungs- und Widerrufsanzeige Previous registration number if notification has been changed or withdrawn DE/CA20/01-IVD-Luxuslebenswelt-38/21	
Anzeigender nach § 25 MPG / Reporter pursuant to § 25 Medical Devices Act, MPG £ Hersteller / Manufacturer S Bevollmächtigter / Authorised Representative £ Einführer / Importer £ Verantwortlicher für das Zusammensetzen von Systemen oder Behandlungseinheiten nach § 10 Abs. 1 und 2 MPG / Assembler of systems or procedure packs pursuant to § 10 (1) and (2) Medical Devices Act, MPG £ Betrieb oder Einrichtung (aufbereiten) nach § 25 Abs. 1 MPG i. V. m. § 4 Abs. 2 MPBetreibV Institution (processing) pursuant to § 25 (1) Medical Devices Act, MPG in connection with § 4 (2) MPBetreibV £ Betrieb oder Einrichtung (sterilisieren) nach § 25 Abs. 2 i. V. m. § 10 Abs. 3 MPG Institution (sterilizing) pursuant to § 25 (2) in connection with § 10 (3) Medical Devices Act, MPG	

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Vertreter / Deputy (optional)		
Bezeichnung / Name		
Telefon / Phone		Telefax / Fax
E-Mail / E-mail		
<input type="checkbox"/> Erstanzeige / Initial notification <input type="checkbox"/> Änderungsanzeige / Notification of change		



In-vitro-Diagnostikum / In vitro diagnostic medical device		
Klassifizierung / Classification <input type="checkbox"/> Produkt der Liste A, Anhang II / Device of List A, Annex II <input type="checkbox"/> Produkt der Liste B, Anhang II / Device of List B, Annex II <input type="checkbox"/> Produkt zur Eigenanwendung / Device for self-testing <input type="checkbox"/> Sonstiges Produkt / Other device (all devices except Annex II and self-testing devices)		
App (Software auf mobilen Endgeräten)	<input type="checkbox"/> ja / yes	<input type="checkbox"/> nein / no
Anzeige nach § 25 Abs. 3 Nummer 3 MPG Notification pursuant to § 25 (3) number 3 Medical Devices Act, MPG <input type="checkbox"/> "Neues In-vitro-Diagnostikum / New in vitro diagnostic medical device"		
Handelsname des Produktes / Trade name of the device COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Antigen Test Kit(Colloidal Gold)		
Produktbezeichnung / Name of device COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Antigen Test Kit(Colloidal Gold)		
Angabe der benutzten Nomenklatur / Nomenclature used <input type="checkbox"/> EDMS-Klassifikation / EDMS Classification <input type="checkbox"/> GMDN		
Nomenklaturcode / Nomenclature code 15-70-90-90-00		
Nomenklaturbezeichnung / Nomenclature term OTHER OTHER VIROLOGY RAPID TESTS		
Kurzbeschreibung / Short description In Deutsch / In German Dieses Produkt wird für den qualitativen In-vitro-Nachweis des SARS-CoV-2-Antigens in menschlichen Nasenabstrichproben verwendet. Es ist für den persönlichen Gebrauch durch ungeschulte Laien als Schnelltestmethode für eine neuartige Coronavirus-Infektion bestimmt. Bitte treffen Sie jedoch keine medizinische Entscheidung ohne Rücksprache mit dem Arzt. Es ist für Benutzer ab 15 Jahren geeignet. Benutzer unter 15 Jahren sollten mit Hilfe von Erwachsenen getestet werden. Sowohl symptomatische als auch asymptomatische Infektionen können getestet werden.		
In English / In English This product is used for in vitro qualitative detection of the SARS-CoV-2 antigen in human nasal swab specimen. It is intended for personal use by untrained layman as a rapid test method for novel coronavirus infection. However, please do not make a medical decision without consulting with the doctor. It is suitable for users over 15 years old. Users under 15 years of age should be tested with assistance of adults. Both symptomatic and asymptomatic infections can be tested.		

**Zusätzliche Angaben im Falle der In-vitro-Diagnostika gemäß Anhang II und der In-vitro-Diagnostika zur Eigenanwendung / Additional information for Annex II and self-testing in vitro diagnostic medical devices**

Nummer(n) der Bescheinigung(en) / Certificate number(s) <a href="#">1434/1434-IVDD-445/2021</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Übereinstimmung mit den Gemeinsamen Technischen Spezifikationen (für Produkte gem. Anhang II, Liste A) In conformity with Common Technical Specifications (for Annex II List A devices)
Ergebnisse der Leistungsbewertung Outcome of performance evaluation <a href="#">Performanceevaluation.pdf</a>

Ich versichere, dass die Angaben nach bestem Wissen und Gewissen gemacht wurden.  
I affirm that the information given above is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Ort  
City Willich

Datum  
Date 2021-08-18

Name  
Lin Sun

Unterschrift  
Signature

**Bearbeitungsvermerke / Processing notes  
Nur von der zuständigen Behörde auszufüllen / To be filled in only by the competent authority**

Bearbeiter / Person responsible <a href="#">Frau Nadine Schlingmeier</a>	Telefon / Phone <a href="#">0211-475-3853</a>
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COVID-19: Rapid Antigen detection for SARS-CoV-2 by lateral flow assay: a national systematic evaluation for mass-testing

UK COVID-19 Lateral Flow Oversight Team

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**Running Title:** Clinical utility of lateral flow SARS-CoV-2 antigen detection

**Keywords:** coronavirus, COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, United Kingdom, Public Health, lateral flow, viral antigen detection, testing, national evaluation, LFD, lateral flow tests, lateral flow devices.

# 31 Abstract

32  
33 *Background:* New lateral flow device (LFD) viral antigen immunoassays have been developed by commercial and  
34 research organisations around the world as diagnostic tests for SARS-CoV-2 infection. To support decisions by  
35 the UK Government on potential scale-up of mass population testing, we have at their request evaluated the  
36 diagnostic performance of a significant number of point-of-care rapid SARS-CoV-2 LFDs.

37  
38 *Methods:* 132 LFDs were initially reviewed by a Department of Health and Social Care team, part of the UK  
39 government, from which 64 were selected for further evaluation. Standardised laboratory evaluations, and for  
40 those that met the published criteria, field testing in the Falcon-C19 research study and UK pilots were performed  
41 (UK COVID-19 testing centres, hospital, schools, armed forces).

42 *Results:* 4/64 LFDs so far have desirable performance characteristics from independent laboratory studies and  
43 early preliminary field evaluations (Orient Gene, Deepblue and *Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative*  
44 *Test*), of which one underwent extended clinical assessment in field studies (*Innova*). 8951 Innova LFD tests  
45 were performed with a kit failure rate of 5.6% (502/8951, 95% CI: 5.1-6.1), false positive rate of 0.32% (22/6954,  
46 95% CI: 0.20-0.48) and a viral antigen detection/sensitivity (using RNA RT-PCR as a proxy for the presence of  
47 antigen) of 78.8% when performed by laboratory scientists (156/198, 95% CI 72.4-84.3). Sensitivity was  
48 significantly lower when testing was undertaken by non-experts with limited initial training

49  
50 *Interpretation:* Several LFDs have promising performance characteristics for mass population testing and can be  
51 used to identify infectious positive individuals. The Innova LFD shows good viral antigen detection/sensitivity with  
52 excellent specificity, although kit failure rates and the impact of training are potential issues. These results  
53 support the expanded evaluation of LFDs, and assessment of greater access to testing on COVID-19  
54 transmission.

55  
56  
57 *Funding:* Department of Health and Social Care. University of Oxford. Public Health England Porton Down,  
58 Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, National Institute of Health Research.

## 59 Introduction

60  
61 National governments and international organisations including the World Health Organisation (WHO) and  
62 European Commission have highlighted the importance of individual testing, mass population testing and  
63 subsequent contact tracing to halt the chain of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-  
64 19.<sup>1,2,3</sup> The current diagnostic test involves reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing of  
65 nose/throat swabs in specialised laboratories. Such capacity in the UK is currently estimated at ~500,000  
66 tests/day<sup>4-7</sup> and this is used with contact tracing procedures and mobile applications to identify close  
67 symptomatic contacts of infected symptomatic individuals.<sup>8-10</sup> However, there are significant challenges in  
68 creating testing capacity to identify those with asymptomatic infections or to test contacts of individuals with  
69 COVID-19. To date, turnaround time for RT-PCR has been typically slow (>24 hours).

70  
71 To better understand and control SARS-CoV-2 transmission, there is an urgent need for large-scale, accurate,  
72 affordable and rapid diagnostic testing assays, with the ability to detect infectious individuals. Lateral flow device  
73 (LFD) immunoassays can be designed to test for different protein targets and are routinely used in healthcare  
74 settings principally as a result of their affordability, ease of use, short turnaround time, and high-test accuracy. In  
75 brief, a sample is placed on a conjugation pad where the analyte (or antigen) of interest is bound by conjugated  
76 antibodies. The analyte-antibody mix subsequently migrates along a membrane by capillary flow across both  
77 'test' and 'control' strips. These strips are coated with antibodies detecting the analyte of interest and a positive  
78 test is confirmed by the appearance of coloured control and test lines.<sup>11</sup>

79  
80 Newly developed SARS-CoV-2 antigen LFDs identify the presence of specific viral proteins, using conjugated  
81 antibodies to bind spike, envelope, membrane or nucleocapsid proteins. In contrast to the IgM/IgG "antibody  
82 tests", these antigen tests directly identify viral proteins, and are not reliant on the host's immune response. In  
83 contrast to RT-PCR, results for LFDs are observed in 10-30 minutes depending on the device, providing a  
84 window for early interventions to halt the chain of transmission earlier in the disease course when individuals are  
85 most infectious.<sup>12</sup>

86  
87 To date, many manufacturers have developed first-generation rapid SARS-CoV-2 antigen-detecting LFDs.  
88 However, many of these tests have not been independently validated. There is evidence of variable performance  
89 when assessing test sensitivity and specificity, although several candidates looked promising on the basis of  
90 early data.<sup>13-15</sup> An independent national evaluation of these devices is important to facilitate population-level or  
91 mass testing initiatives globally.

92  
93 Here, we report the diagnostic performance of first-generation SARS-CoV-2 antigen-detecting LFD for rapid  
94 point-of-care (POC) testing in work that was commissioned by the UK's Department of Health and Social Care  
95 (DHSC) from PHE Porton Down and the University of Oxford.

## 96 **Methods**

97  
98 A phased evaluation of available SARS-CoV-2 antigen LFDs was undertaken.

### 100 **Department of Health and Social Care evaluation (Phase 1 evaluation)**

101  
102 The DHSC identified manufacturers supplying SARS-CoV-2 antigen LFDs that could enable mass testing at a  
103 population level. A desktop review was performed to ensure there were appropriate instructions for use and to  
104 assess manufacturers' claimed performance and manufacturing capabilities.<sup>16</sup>

### 106 **Pre-clinical evaluation (Phase 2 evaluation)**

107  
108 Pre-clinical evaluation of candidate LFDs was performed by trained laboratory scientists at Public Health England  
109 (PHE) Porton Down. LFDs were evaluated against SARS-CoV-2 spiked positive controls and known negative  
110 controls, consisting of saliva collected from healthy adult staff volunteers.

111 Pre-defined and publically available "prioritisation" criteria to pass on to the next evaluation phase had to be met  
112 for LFDs, consisting of (i) a kit failure rate of <10%; (ii) an analytical specificity of ≥97%, and (iii) an analytical  
113 LOD of ≥9 of 15 (60%) at 10<sup>2</sup> pfu/mL, corresponding to a RT-PCR cycle threshold (Ct) of approximately 25  
114 (~100,000 RNA copies/ml); and (iv) lack of cross-reactivity with seasonal coronaviruses to further test analytical  
115 specificity.

### 117 **Retrospective secondary care evaluation (Phase 3a evaluation)**

118 Evaluation using patient samples retrospectively was started in August 2020 at PHE Porton Down. Samples were  
119 obtained from a secondary healthcare setting (Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust).

- 120 • 1,000 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples: fresh samples held refrigerated were supplied the day after they
- 121 were tested negative by RT-PCR by the laboratory service at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK.
- 122 • 200 SARS-CoV-2 positive samples: swabs collected in VTM from patients admitted to hospital during
- 123 the first wave of the UK pandemic (March-June 2020).<sup>17</sup> These were diluted 1:4 SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR
- 124 negative saliva, aliquoted and frozen at -20°C for later use. For each positive sample, in addition to the
- 125 original diagnostic RT-PCR Ct value, a confirmatory RT-PCR was performed at PHE Porton Down on the
- 126 diluted sample to determine the new Ct value.

### 127 **Community research evaluation (Phase 3b evaluation)**

128 We undertook a field evaluation using samples from volunteers in the community in collaboration with the  
129 National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funded CONDOR Platform "COVID-19 National Diagnostic  
130 Research and Evaluation Platform". This was performed within the FALCON-C19 study (Facilitating Accelerated  
131 Clinical validation Of Novel diagnostics for COVID-19, 20/WA/0169, IRAS 284229), between 17<sup>th</sup> September and  
132 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020. This involved the recruitment and re-testing of consenting adults with a RT-PCR-confirmed  
133 diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection within 5 days of the original PCR result.

134  
135 For the *Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test*, testing was additionally performed for a subset of  
136 samples on-site at four COVID-19 testing centres by trained research staff using the "dry swabs" to evaluate  
137 "real-life"/diagnostic performance. Dry swabs are those that are not placed into viral transport medium prior to  
138 performing the LFD test.

### 140 **Community field service evaluation (Phase 4 evaluation)**

141  
142 Wider field service evaluations were performed within a number of UK institutions and settings. These  
143 evaluations utilised the *Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test*. These institutions included a  
144 secondary healthcare setting (John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford), PHE Porton Down, armed forces members  
145 (following an outbreak) and in secondary schools (pupils aged 11-18). Evaluations were also undertaken at  
146 regional COVID-19 testing centres as part of an NHS Test and Trace service evaluation involving the general  
147 public. The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford performed an evaluation as part of their asymptomatic staff screening  
148 service using the Respiratory Diagnostic Kit Evaluation ('Red Kite') study (Research Ethics Committee reference:  
149 19/NW/0730; North West-Greater Manchester South Research Ethics Committee).

## 151 **Statistical analyses**

152 Fisher's exact and chi-squared tests were used to determine non-random associations between categorical  
153 variables. Statistical analyses and data visualisation were performed using R version 4.0.3. Sensitivity and  
154 specificity and 95% confidence intervals were calculated using the exact Clopper-Pearson method.

155 **Results**

156  
157 *Phase 1*

158 A total of 132 suppliers of SARS-CoV-2 antigen detection LFDs were identified and referred to the DHSC for  
159 initial Phase 1 review. Among these, at the time of publication, 64 were selected by the DHSC for further  
160 evaluation by the UK lateral flow oversight group.

161  
162 *Phase 2*

163 As part of Phase 2 evaluations, 9,692 LFD tests were performed at PHE Porton Down across the 64 candidate  
164 devices as of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020. 5 LFDs had a kit failure rate above the pre-specified threshold for  
165 exclusion (>10%), 17 kits had a false-positive rate below the pre-defined specificity threshold (<97%) and 28 kits  
166 had a false-negative rate below the LOD threshold (<60% at 10<sup>2</sup> pfu/ml). In total, across all three criteria, nineteen kits  
167 performed at a level in accordance with the UK Lateral Flow Oversight Group's *a priori* "prioritisation criteria". All  
168 nineteen kits also passed cross-reactivity analyses against seasonal human coronaviruses.

169  
170 *Phase 3*

171 To date, eight LFDs have passed Phase 3a evaluation, namely: *Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative*  
172 *Test* (Innova), *Zhejiang Orient Gene Biotech Co. Coronavirus Ag Rapid Test Cassette (Swab)* (Orient Gene),  
173 *Anhui Deepblue Medical Technology COVID-19 (Sars-CoV-2) Antigen Test kit (Colloidal Gold)* (Deepblue),  
174 *Fortress Diagnostics Coronavirus Ag Rapid Test (Fortress)*, *Roche SD Biosensor Standard Q COVID-19 Ag Test*  
175 *(SD Bio swab)*, *Surescreen Diagnostics SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Test Cassette (Nasopharyngeal swab*  
176 *(Surescreen) and LFD x (the manufacturer had not given consent to be named)*. (Supplementary Table 1). Three  
177 LFDs did not pass 3a evaluation and the remaining LFDs are currently undergoing evaluation. Four LFDs  
178 (Deepblue, Innova, Orientgene, LFD x) have passed Phase 3b evaluation (Table 1, Supp Figure 1), one LFD did  
179 not pass and the remainder have not been evaluated.

180  
181

Viral Load	Average Ct	Innova Number tested/number positive (%)	LFD x Number tested/number positive (%)	Orient Gene Number tested/number positive (%)	Deepblue Number tested/number positive (%)
>10million	<18	5/5 (100)	1/1 (100)	-	3/3 (100)
1-10 million	18-21.5	23/23 (100)	12/13 (92)	17/17 (100)	19/19 (100)
0.1-1 million	21.5-25	52/54 (96)	19/21 (91)	18/18 (100)	43/44 (98)
10,000-100,000	25-28	37/42 (88)	13/13 (100)	18/19 (95)	38/38 (100)
1,000-10,000	28-31	25/33 (76)	17/19 (90)	14/18 (78)	18/29 (62)
100-1,000	31-34.5	11/33 (33)	10/26 (39)	11/19 (58)	8/36 (22)
<100	>34.5	2/7 (29)	1/6 (17)	0/4 (0)	0/8 (0)
Overall	na	155/197 (79)	73/99 (74)	78/95 (82)	129/177(73)

182 Table 1. Results of the Phase 3b evaluations showing viral antigen detection/sensitivity of four LFD tests using dry-swab samples from  
183 community sampling. Tests were performed by laboratory scientists. Ct – cycle threshold on RT-PCR.

184  
185 *Extended Innova LFD evaluation (Phases 2-4)*

186 The limit of detection of the Innova LFD (Table 2) was determined as part of Phase 2 evaluations for the Innova  
187 test. This analysis consisted of saliva spiked with SARS-CoV-2 with stock of SARS-CoV-2 with a standardised  
188 PFU. Under these ideal concentrations, at an estimated PFU of 390/mL, which corresponds to a Ct of ~25, the  
189 LFD identified all samples.

190

PFU/ml	Ct equivalent	Positive LFD tests/total LFD tests	% positive
100000	16	20/20	100
10000	19	25/25	100
1000	23.7	65/65	100
390	25.2	5/5	100
100	25.5	63/65	96
40	28.5	3/5	60
20	29.3	0/5	0
10	30.2	0/5	0
5	31	0/5	0
2.5	31.7	0/5	0
1.2	32.5	0/5	0

191 Table 2. Limit of sensitivity for SARS-CoV-2 detection by the Innova LFD for antigen detection using saliva sample spiked with SARS-CoV-2. Ct -  
192 cycle threshold. PFU - plaque forming units.

Our phase 4 evaluation focused on field testing of the Innova LFD, for which we had a sufficient supply of kits available for wider testing at the time. Device specificity was determined through an analysis of 6954 tests from evaluation phases 2-4. The percentage of false-positives ranged from 0.00-0.49%, with an overall specificity of 99.68%. The false-positive rate was centre-dependent ( $p=0.014$ , Fisher's exact test). These evaluations noted that where there were challenges in interpreting the results when the test result was "weak" (i.e. the test line was very faint) (Table 3).

Evaluation Phase	False positives/total number	False positives and 95% confidence interval
Phase 2 evaluation	0/72	0.0% (0.0-5.0)
Phase 3a evaluation- negative samples	0/940	0.0% (0.0-0.4)
Phase 4 evaluation- hospital staff	1/329*	0.3% (0.01-1.7)
Phase 4 evaluation- armed forces	0/105	0.0% (0.0-3.5)
Phase 4 evaluation- PHE staff	0/209	0.0% (0.0-1.8)
Phase 4 evaluation- school 1	9/1855**	0.5% (0.2-0.9)
Phase 4 evaluation- school 2 + 3 + 4	7/2130**	0.3% (0.1-0.7)
Phase 4 evaluation- COVID-19 testing centre	5/1314***	0.4% (0.1-0.9)
TOTAL	22/6954	0.3% (0.2-0.5)

\*This was 1 weak positive result that was also a weak positive on repeating; \*\* Weak positives result were negative on retesting with Innova; \*\*\* Not photographed or repeated. Taken in a setting of prevalence of 14% LFD positive results.

Table 3. Number of false positives in negative samples in each evaluation stage for the Innova LFD. 95% confidence intervals presented in each case.

Across Phase 2-4 evaluation stages, 8,951 Innova LFD tests were performed, including a diverse cohort of populations as part of Phase 3b and Phase 4 testing, namely out-patient SARS-CoV-2 cases, healthcare staff, armed forces personnel and secondary school children. The overall kit failure rate for the Innova LFD was 5.6% (502/8951, 95% CI: 5.1-6.1) (Table 4). The most common reason for kit failure was poor transfer of the liquid within the device from the reservoir onto the test strip.

Innova LFD evaluation phase	LFD failures (%)
Phase 2 negatives	0/72 (0.0%)
Phase 2 positive dilution series	0/60 (0.0%)
Phase 2 positive extended dilution series	0/155 (0.0%)
Phase 2 Swab comparison	0/187 (0.0%)
Phase 3a positives	13/191 (6.8%)
Phase 3a negatives	50/990 (5.1%)
Phase 3b FALCON (Dry swabs- field)	27/267 (10.1%)
Phase 3b FALCON (Dry swabs- lab)	9/212 (4.2%)
Phase 3b FALCON (VTM swabs)	9/157 (5.7%)
Phase 4 hospital staff	17/358 (4.7%)
Phase 4 armed forces	6/157 (3.8%)
Phase 4 PHE staff	19/212 (8.9%)
Phase 4 school 1	311/1855 (16.8%)
Phase 4 school 2 + 3 + 4	14/2132 (0.7%)
Phase 4 COVID-19 testing centre	27/1946 (1.4%)
	502/8951 (5.6%)

Table 4. Evaluations of the Innova LFD across Phases 2-4. The table demonstrates the kit failure rate.

Viral antigen detection/sensitivity in individuals with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection using the Innova LFD was assessed in the Phase 3b evaluation as part of the FALCON-C19 research study. Optimal viral antigen detection/sensitivity when performed by laboratory scientists, was 78.8% (95% CI 72.4-84.3%; 156/198 cases where a paired PCR was performed; see below for differing performance by test operator category). Subgroup analyses showed there were no discernible differences in viral antigen detection/sensitivity in those without symptoms vs. symptomatic individuals (27/41 [65.9%] vs. 95/344 [72.4%],  $p=0.38$ ). We did not find any evidence of associations between LFD positivity and symptoms or past medical history, with the exception of presence of headache (Supplementary Table 2).

The association between Innova LFD viral antigen detection/sensitivity and estimated viral load/Ct value was explored using the paired RT-PCR VTM swab sample taken at the same time as the swab used for LFD. There was a strong association between viral load detection (RNA copies/mL) determined through RT-PCR and viral antigen detection by LFD (Figure 1). Confirming earlier analyses, sensitivity of LFDs is highest in samples with higher viral loads.<sup>18 19</sup>



Within the 3b FALCON-C19 study, LFDs were also assessed by sampling 150uL of viral transport medium (VTM) solution instead of using dry swabs; this was associated with poorer performance rate (Supp Figure 2). The use of dry swabs forms the basis of the manufacturer's instructions for use. This was likely due to a dilution factor involved in placing the swab first into VTM and then analysing the VTM sample, and highlights potential issues in generating direct comparisons between LFDs and VTM samples (Supp Figure 2).

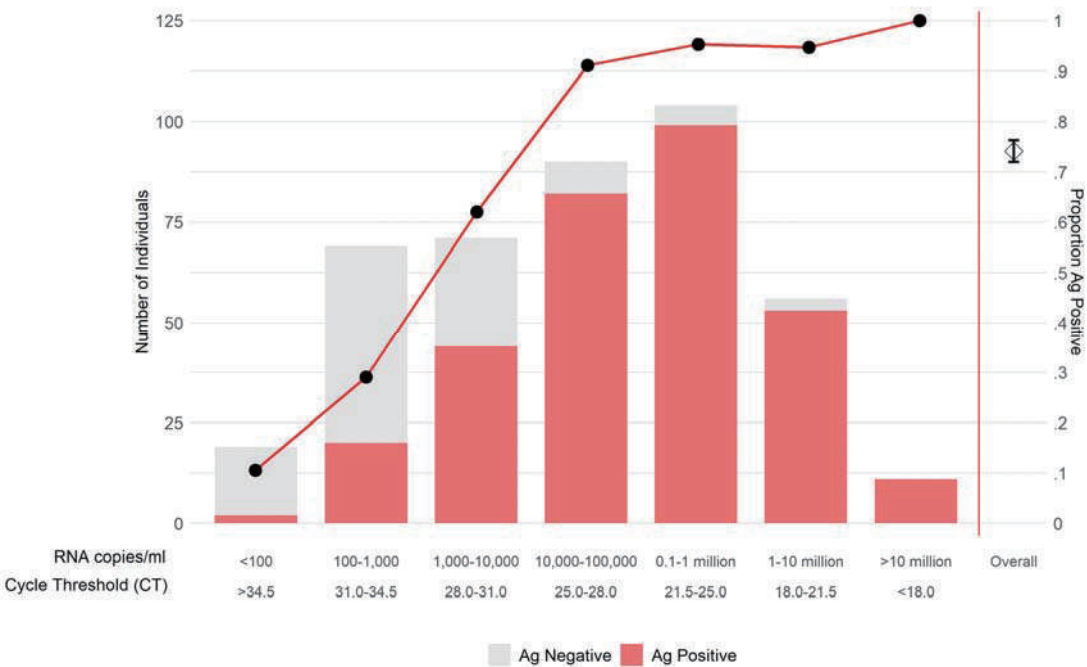
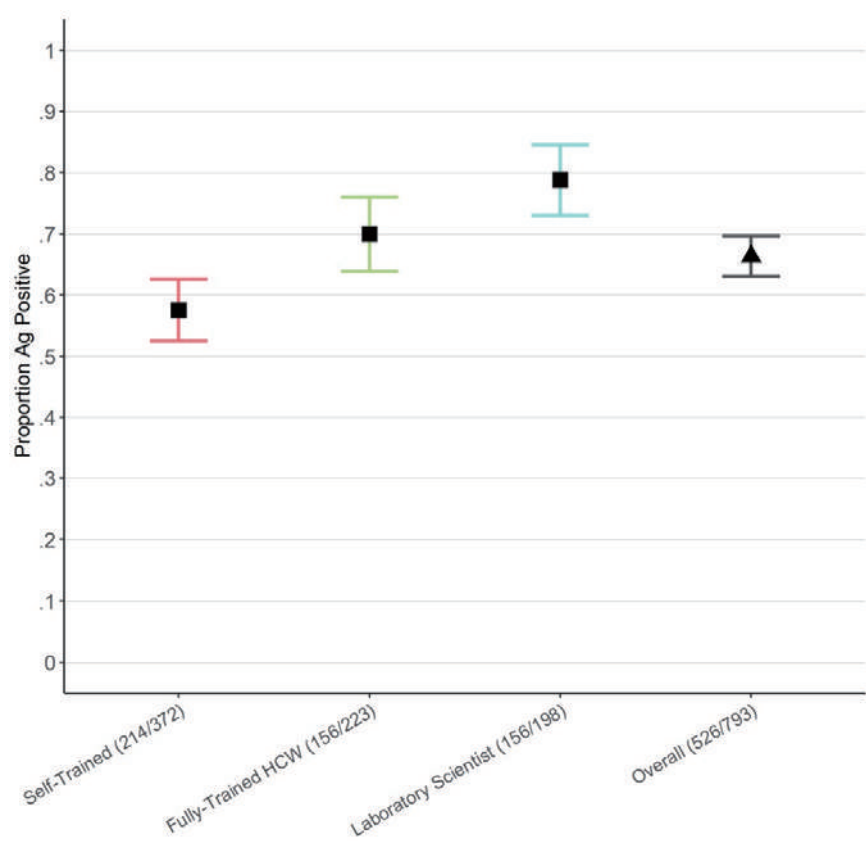


Figure 1. Association between viral antigen detection/sensitivity and viral load (RNA copies/mL and Ct) in Phase 3b Falcon-C19 study evaluation for dry swabs when performed by trained laboratory scientists and trained healthcare workers. Diamond shows point estimate, with 95% confidence intervals, pooling data from all other categories.

As part of Phase 3b-4 evaluations, work was performed to report on the effect of the operator on viral antigen detection/sensitivity in RT-PCR-positive cases using the Innova LFD. Tests were classified according to whether they were performed by a laboratory scientist, a fully trained research health care worker or by a self-trained lay individual working at a regional NHS Test and Trace centre. Performance was optimal when the LFD was used by laboratory scientists (156/198 LFDs positive [78.8%, 95% CI: 72.4-84.3%]) relative to trained healthcare-workers (156/223 LFDs positive [70.0%, 95% CI: 63.5-75.9%]) and self-trained members of the public given a protocol (214/372 LFDs positive [57.5%, 95% CI: 52.3-62.6%];  $p < 0.0001$ ).



246  
247

Figure 2. Effect of training and operator on the viral detection/sensitivity of the Innova LFD in COVID-19 PCR-positive patients.

# Discussion

We report on our national evaluation of SARS-CoV-2 viral antigen-detecting LFDs, focussing on the *Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test*, which has a viral antigen detection (sensitivity) of 78.8% when performed by laboratory scientists and a specificity of 99.7%, using RT-PCR as 'gold standard' for positive and negative status. In our evaluation, test performance was largely maintained across different settings and cohorts; however, performance was partly operator-dependent and kit failures are not infrequent.

Test performance to detect SARS-CoV-2-positive samples was improved at lower Ct values/higher viral loads, and were >90% at Ct values <25 equating to ~390 pfu/mL (Supplementary Table 3). There is an expanding body of evidence that suggests viral load/antigen is important as individuals with the highest viral loads are the most infectious,<sup>20</sup> and the presence/absence of viral antigens determined by LFDs is more strongly associated with a viral culture than RT-PCR positivity.<sup>21</sup>

Our experience is that many LFDs entering our national evaluation program do not perform at a level required for mass population deployment and this reflects the literature. To date, an increasing number of evaluations of SARS-CoV-2 antigen-detecting LFD have been published with variable results. A number of LFDs show good<sup>24</sup> or acceptable sensitivity and specificity<sup>28 29</sup>, however, many studies have identified tests with poor sensitivities or specificities.<sup>30 15</sup>

A challenge for most countries during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has been the expansion of capacity for diagnostic testing to support the identification of symptomatic and asymptomatic cases. This would aid in offering testing to "contacts" of COVID-19 and enable targeted testing to better safeguard vulnerable populations e.g. care home residents. Reliance on RT-PCR involves significant infrastructural and specialist human resources to implement at increasing scale. Both the World Health Organisation and European commission have issued guidance supporting wider implementation of antigen-targeting LFDs, and in November, Slovakia became the first country in the world to implement entire population testing using LFDs.<sup>1,3,31</sup> The UK has similar aspirations to pursue a strategy of mass testing and has implemented a city wide mass testing in Liverpool using the Innova LFD in this study.<sup>32</sup>

It is important to note that there are some potential issues with considering RT-PCR as the gold standard test for COVID-19. Many individuals have persisting viral RNA fragments that can linger for weeks-months without any evidence of active viral replication; in this instance a PCR-positive is likely to overcall the "infectious" status of an individual.<sup>33</sup> Indeed, when compared to the ability to perform viral culture, data suggest that RT-PCR tends to overestimate the presence of replicating or infectious virions.<sup>34</sup>

In field testing, performance of the Innova LFD was dependent on the test operator. Individuals who had read a protocol immediately prior to self-sampling did not perform as well as individuals with hands-on training, or clinical laboratory personnel who had performed several hundred LFD tests. Like other operator-dependent procedures, further work is required to determine the duration and content of "training" to derive optimal test performance. We also assume that the use of LFDs to successfully identify individuals with higher viral loads and enabling an earlier diagnosis will be of benefit in interrupting transmission, however, this remains to be proven.

SARS-CoV-2 control will benefit from a variety of testing strategies. This might include those optimised for determining past infection/exposure (e.g. serology), those that are of benefit in determining current/recent infection (e.g. RT-PCR), or those identifying potential infectivity. A combination of approaches incorporating the strengths of each of these tests can be effectively used for individuals and for population-level management of the pandemic. Approaches to testing will remain relevant even when effective vaccines become available as it may take several months for an appreciable effect on transmission to be fully realised.<sup>35</sup>

In conclusion, we completed late stage evaluations of seven LFDs. We report sensitivities of 70-80% and specificities ≥99.7% for each LFD evaluated in phase 3b, which involved testing by laboratory personnel or trained healthcare professionals. To identify patients with higher viral loads (Ct<25), each LFD had >90% sensitivity. Sensitivity was lower in phase 4 evaluations, while specificity was maintained. The simplicity of LFDs, without a requirement for specialist training or equipment, mean that they are an attractive option for mass testing. Future research should focus on post-implementation evaluation of diagnostic accuracy, including the potential benefit of regular serial sampling to improve accuracy and reduce transmission.

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## Research in Context

### Evidence before the study:

Lateral flow devices are a new form of testing for SARS-CoV-2. They differ from RT-PCR tests in that they rely on the detection of viral antigens by immunoassays and their utility has not yet been fully defined. A literature review was performed in PubMed and bioRxiv/medRxiv for all studies using lateral flow devices for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 viral antigen. This used the search terms “COVID-19”, “SARS-CoV-2”, “viral antigen” and “lateral flow devices” and was not limited to English language publications. To date, the majority of studies have been largely single centre studies analysing a single test and there are contrasting results with some LFDs showing good sensitivity and specificity<sup>24 25 13 19 26 27 18</sup>, and others demonstrating poorer performance.<sup>28 29</sup>

### Added value of the study

This UK COVID-19 Lateral Flow Oversight group study is the largest national evaluation undertaken of viral antigen LFDs for COVID-19. We have flagged four LFDs with the best performance characteristics from our assessments. The Innova LFD has been tested the most extensively and has high specificity with acceptable sensitivity. Our data has also highlighted the critical importance of training. We also note the need for further clinical studies to demonstrate that the identification of individuals with higher viral loads will be of benefit in interrupting transmission.

### Implications of all the available evidence

Our data indicates that LFDs for COVID-19 have performance characteristics attractive for the UK mass testing program. Ongoing iterative evaluation of the population-level roll-out of LFDs in reducing transmission of COVID-19, and the contribution of such tests to reducing the risk of morbidity and mortality for clinically vulnerable individuals, is desirable. Further work is required to determine the amount and content of “training” to derive optimal test performance.