



**Salvogene
SARS-CoV-2 Task Force:
Expectations for so-called
“rapid antigen tests” are running
very high.**

Dear Premium Customers,

In contrast to PCR tests, the “rapid antigen tests” do not search out genetic material in swab samples, but rather molecules that are characteristic of the viruses themselves.

Their use could interrupt infection chains and make lockdowns unnecessary or, at the very least, less draconian. This is the purpose of these rapid tests.

There are currently around 100 models worthy of serious consideration, most of them emanating from China, Korea and the USA. In Europe, there are only a few companies active in this field; they include Siemens and the San startup of R-Biopharm in Germany. The Swiss company Roche, which we have already mentioned several times, is currently acting not only as a manufacturer, but also as an agent for other manufacturers. However, the decisive breakthrough is expected to come in the form of a saliva test which provides results in a matter of minutes. It does not necessarily have to be administered by a health professional but can also be carried out in the privacy of

one's own home. The problem is that the virus load in saliva is lower. This is also the reason for the current delay.

Nevertheless, it is very important that this kind of solution is rolled out as soon as possible, because the conventional PCR and rapid tests that have been used up to now are increasingly encountering bottlenecks in the supply of reagents that are close to sell-out worldwide. The pipette tips for the PCR samples are meeting exactly the same delivery difficulties. In the circumstances, even more is now riding on these rapid tests. In addition to Roche, Qiagen is also involved in these smear tests. According to their own data, they are already achieving a 90% reliability rate in the detection of diseases, and the specificity is already 100%. This means that it is impossible for the sample from a healthy person to produce a false positive. These tests are based on the lateral-flow method instead of ribonucleic acid and detect the antibodies on the test strip. They operate on a similar principle to a pregnancy test.

As soon as we find that an absolutely reliable product has been approved, we will provide this type of test free of charge to our Premium clients for continuous monitoring during the pandemic.

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