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Statement on the detectability of the Omicron virus variant of SARS-CoV-2 with the COVID-19 Ag tests of nal von minden GmbH

To whom it may concern.

Since the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, several mutations of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus have occurred, resulting in a large number of variants. The Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) recently discovered in South Africa also has a large number of mutations. However, the majority of the mutations are in the spike protein, which the virus uses to recognize host cells.¹

However, our COVID-19 antigen rapid tests and self-tests detect the nucleocapsid protein, which encloses the RNA of the virus. By matching the mutations in the nucleocapsid protein of the Omicron variant, we expect our tests to remain successful in detecting the new virus variant. The *National Institute for Communicable Diseases* (NICD) also assumes that the performance of the rapid antigen tests will not be affected by the new mutations.²



¹ <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-03552-w>

² <https://www.nicd.ac.za/frequently-asked-questions-for-the-b-1-1-529-mutated-sars-cov-2-lineage-in-south-africa/>

We help you care!