

**To:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>  
**Cc:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>  
**From:** 5.1.2e  
**Sent:** Thur 10/8/2020 11:37:48 AM  
**Subject:** RE: EQA manuscript final round of comments  
**Received:** Thur 10/8/2020 11:37:59 AM  
[SARS2 EQA manuscript 08102020.docx](#)  
[title page EQA\\_29092020.docx](#)  
[Figure 1.jpg](#)  
[Figure S1.tif](#)

Dear 5.1.2e

Please find attached the final draft and addressed comments from ECDC. I highlighted the minor changes that 5.1.2e referred to in her last email in yellow.

It would be highly appreciated to receive your feedback as quickly as possible, so that we can start the submission process.

Thank you very much for your help.

Best wishes,  
 5.1.2e

Contact:  
 T: 00-31 5.1.2e  
 e-mail: 5.1.2e@rivm.nl

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**From:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>  
**Sent:** dinsdag 6 oktober 2020 12:09  
**To:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>  
**Cc:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>  
**Subject:** RE: EQA manuscript final round of comments

Many thanks 5.1.2e we are looking forward to the final draft!

Please let us also know if you would like to present the results to the network TC on the 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Best wishes,  
 5.1.2e

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**From:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>  
**Sent:** 06 October 2020 10:46  
**To:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>  
**Cc:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>  
**Subject:** RE: EQA manuscript final round of comments

Hi,

Thank you for the reminder, I had ot forgotten \*

We have made some changes in the manuscript (extra figure in the supplement). I will have a final look today and of course send it back to you.

We wished to clarify better that although we analyse different steps in the workflow separately in the manuscript this is not reflecting properly what we assessed: namely the assessment of the complete workflow.

Best wishes 5.1.2e

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**From:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>  
**Sent:** dinsdag 6 oktober 2020 10:41  
**To:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>  
**Cc:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>  
**Subject:** RE: EQA manuscript final round of comments

Dear 5.1.2e and 5.1.2e

Just a kind reminder to send us the final-final version of the manuscript so that we can finalise the internal approval process. We don't expect any further comments, this is mainly administrative.

Would you be interested to present the EQA results to the next lab network TC on 21 October? WHO Euro plans to present also on the molecular SARS-Cov-2 EQAP results on this TC.

Many thanks and best regards,

5.1.2e



5.1.2e  
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**From:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

**Sent:** 30 September 2020 13:51

**To:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>

**Cc:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

**Subject:** RE: EQA manuscript final round of comments

Hi 5.1.2e

This sentence sounds good as you propose, and I believe it will also be acceptable from our upper managers!

We will bring the topic for discussion anyway, as your points are valid as always 😊

Let me know if you have other comments from 5.1.2e still to address.

Best wishes,

5.1.2e

5.1.2e

5.1.2e

Air-Borne, Blood-Borne and Sexually Transmitted Infections, DPR

5.1.2e



**From:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>

**Sent:** 30 September 2020 13:34

**To:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

Cc: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>  
 Subject: RE: EQA manuscript final round of comments

Hi,

Sorry correction

5.1.2i Concept

5.1.2i Concept

I just want to get back to the comment by 5.1.2e: that the proposed sentence needs to be removed because it is not compliant with ECDC guidelines. This is principally wrong for a scientific publication. I hope you guys can discuss these things internally.

Best 5.1.2e

From: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>  
 Sent: woensdag 30 september 2020 12:58  
 To: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>  
 Cc: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>  
 Subject: RE: EQA manuscript final round of comments

Dear 5.1.2e

We can add the example that you suggested previously in the manuscript, to avoid potential mis-interpretation. So the sentence will be:

5.1.2i Concept

Best wishes,  
 5.1.2e

From: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>  
 Sent: dinsdag 29 september 2020 17:18  
 To: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>  
 Cc: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>  
 Subject: RE: EQA manuscript final round of comments

Hi 5.1.2e

I completely agree with you and the principle of scientific independence.

However, I do believe that we need to be clear that we are not suggesting the use of serological assays to confirm negative PCR tests for diagnosis (because the way I read it, it could be mis-interpreted):

5.1.2i Concept

Please consider if there may be an example of real-life practice which would make it more explicit.

Please let me know if you want to have a chat tomorrow morning or in a time point that will suit you!

Best regards,

5.1.2e

From: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>  
 Sent: 29 September 2020 16:30  
 To: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

Cc: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

**Subject:** RE: EQA manuscript final round of comments

Hi,

I strongly disagree with this. This touches upon the scientific independence of a manuscript submitted for independent peer review. It does not state anywhere that the product has to comply with ECDC guidance. In addition, most of the authors are scientifically independent of ECDC and surely you must realize that ECDC guidance do not always relate to reality. In the manuscript it is clearly not written as a recommendation, it is just a description.

I'll think this thru. It is a very principle case to me that the scientific output is independent. If ECDC wishes their employees to publish scientifically they should respect and support the independent nature of manuscript submission in a peer reviewed system.

Another option is not to submit it at all ? or submit without ECDC authors (which would be a pity).

I'll get back to you.

Best 5.1.2e

---

**From:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

**Sent:** dinsdag 29 september 2020 16:16

**To:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>

**Cc:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

**Subject:** RE: EQA manuscript final round of comments

Dear 5.1.2e and 5.1.2e

Many thanks again for addressing our comments. The ECDC line management further commented on the manuscript and I attach the draft with their comments and suggestions. We need to upload the version with their comments addressed and then it is good to go.

On the comment about the use of serological assays to reduce the risk of false-negatives, as the paper is part of an ECDC contract deliverable and with 3 co-authors from ECDC side, it needs to comply with ECDC guidance documents. That of course doesn't mean that we cannot state the practical views, it is just that we need to be clear that this is not a suggestion/recommendation, but rather presenting the real-life situation. If we present options for action, we need to be explicit on what we are suggesting. Please consider if there is any way you could rephrase to make it a bit clearer.

Many thanks again and best wishes,

5.1.2e

---

**From:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>

**Sent:** 23 September 2020 12:49

**To:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

**Cc:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

**Subject:** RE: EQA manuscript final round of comments

Hi,

We do not wish to remove the sentence for the reasons indicated below. I saw that our response to your comment was no longer resent in the version I send you. Sorry about that, my fault!

5.1.2i Concept

Best wishes [redacted] 5.1.2e

Ps great that it already in the pipe-line for internal approval!

Best wishes [redacted] 5.1.2e

---

**From:** [redacted] 5.1.2e <[redacted] 5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>  
**Sent:** woensdag 23 september 2020 12:25  
**To:** [redacted] 5.1.2e <[redacted] 5.1.2e @rivm.nl>  
**Cc:** [redacted] 5.1.2e <[redacted] 5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; [redacted] 5.1.2e <[redacted] 5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] 5.1.2e <[redacted] 5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>  
**Subject:** RE: EQA manuscript final round of comments

Dear [redacted] 5.1.2e and [redacted] 5.1.2e

Many thanks again for drafting the paper and addressing all of our comments. I have no further comments from my side, other than one that I already had in the first version about the following sentence:

5.1.2i Concept

5.1.2i Concept

I suggested to add an

example there to make it clearer, because we currently don't have such a 'recommendation' in any of our guidance documents. I understand that we have reached the word limit, so could consider removing the whole sentence instead?

If we need to reduce the words even more, maybe consider reducing the discussion points regarding the comparison with the other clinical EQA panel?

For your information, internal ECDC approval has already started.

Best wishes,

[redacted] 5.1.2e



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**From:** [redacted] 5.1.2e <[redacted] 5.1.2e @rivm.nl>  
**Sent:** 21 September 2020 16:59  
**To:** [redacted] 5.1.2e <[redacted] 5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] 5.1.2e <[redacted] 5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] 5.1.2e <[redacted] 5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>  
**Cc:** [redacted] 5.1.2e <[redacted] 5.1.2e @rivm.nl>  
**Subject:** EQA manuscript final round of comments

Dear all,

Please find attached the revised manuscript. You can see our responses to your comments on the side. However your comments have led to a manuscript that is too long.

So please have a final look, final round of comment and maybe indicate suggestions too shorten the text (we need to loose 200 words)

Do you need the final text for the internal approval? Or can it be based on this version?

We would appreciate a rapid turnaround time \*

The extra report for ECDC will follow in a few days.

Best wishes **5.1.2e** and **5.1.2e**

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