

948226

5.1.2e @rivm.nl



Dear Dubbel

thank you very much for your response and your positive news.

As previously discussed, and as part of several other projects on Covid-19 and children/pregnancy (KidsCorona research

program), we are about to start a large project in which we intend to screen a large number of children (3-15 year-old) attending summercamps in the area of Barcelona. This project has received important support from various funding bodies, there is a considerable amount of efforts dedicated to make this project possible, and as well great interest (and some pressure) by institutions and stakeholders for its development.

The study was initially designed as a weekly screening in 2,500 children attending summercamps, but considering the low expecte incidence in addition we will be launching a large dissemination campaign covering dozens of thousands of children from summercamps, aiming at early identification and study of contacts of any incident cases with suspicion symptoms.

In both studies, considering the difficulty/impossibility of performing serial NP swabs in children, saliva came up as an appealing alternative to perform both serial PCR and antibodies.

Dr 51.20 (cc, and see below) has validated here in Barcelona PCR testing for SARS-CoV-2 in saliva in adults, but considering the scarce reported experience about saliva as a sample for PCR in children, some concerns came up as to whether the mode of sample collection and processing used in adults would be adequate for children.

When in a previous conversation you mentioned your experts had expertise with PCR in saliva from children we though this could be a great opportunity for collaboration.

Since I am acting here in the role of scientific coordinator of the KidsCorona initiative as a whole, but not as specialist, I would suggest that there could be a direct interaction between experts. Therefore I take the liberty of in turn liaising Dr Egging with Dr 5.1.2e (Hospital Sant Joan de Deu Barcelona) and Dr 5.1.2e (Hospital Clinic Barcelona), both professors in microbiology and involved in this project, and I hope a communication could be established.

On my part, I can just say we would be extremely interested in you joining this research project, and I hope we could produce one or more interesting papers taking profit of this joining of expertise and the data generated.

I am very grateful Dubbel for your efforts and to Dr Dubbel and team for their willingness to explore a collaboration and hope we can continue this conversation at your earliest convenience.

With best wishes,

Dubbel

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On 25 Jun 2020, at 22:38 , 5.1.2e , 5.1.2e , 5.1.2e . < 5.1.2e @umcutrecht.nl> wrote:

Dear Dubbel

I discussed your study today with the virologists at our national institute of public health who have done quite some research on saliva testing for SARS-CoV2 and they were definitely interested in exploring opportunities for collaboration and providing expertise. I hereby link you to 5.1.20 (in Cc) he can further discuss this with you.

Let me know if I can do anything else at this point. Best wishes

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