

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Below we describe the SARS-CoV-2 testing procedures used by the different collaborating laboratories:

A, B, C, D and E.

Laboratory A send the study test material to the collaborating laboratory B where SARS-CoV-2 reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) was performed according to the national reference method (*Corman VM, Landt O, Kaiser M, Molenkamp R, Meijer A, Chu DKW, et al. Detection of 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) by real-time RT-PCR. Euro Surveill, 25 (2020), p. 2431*). Laboratory C used the same RT-PCR design and in some cases also used the CE-IVD kit GeneFinder™ COVID-19 Plus RealAmp Kit on the Sample to Result Platform ELITE InGenius® to confirm results when deemed necessary.

Laboratories D and E performed SARS-CoV-2 testing with the cobas® SARS-CoV-2 PCR on the cobas 6800 (Roche Diagnostics), according to the manufacturer's protocol. In addition to this protocol, the laboratory D performed an external lysis step prior to loading samples in the cobas 6800, in which the viral transport medium was 1:1 diluted in MagnaPure 96 External lysisbuffer (Roche Diagnostics). Laboratory E additionally used RT-PCR according to the national reference method (*see above*), when deemed necessary for confirmation.