

Table 3: Concordance of Cq values of 34 positive SARS-CoV-2 saliva samples analysed independently in two New Zealand laboratories (Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) and IGENZ) and one US laboratory (UIUC) in blind experiments. Saliva samples were processed immediately after collection at UIUC but 4–6 months later in the New Zealand laboratories. A dash indicates data omission due to assumed sample degradation. A blank entry denotes that the sample was not re-tested in that laboratory due to lack of sample volume. All samples had paired nasal swabs (nasopharyngeal NP, or mid-turbinate MT) as listed, and all but one nasal sample were called positive. (Pos = Positive, Neg = Negative, Indet = Indeterminate). Asterisk indicates a discordant result between the nasal and saliva sample.

Sample #	Nasal swab result NP/MT	Blinded saliva samples between three laboratories (Cq values)									Final saliva result
		N gene			ORF1ab gene			S gene			
		VUW	IGENZ	UIUC	VUW	IGENZ	UIUC	VUW	IGENZ	UIUC	
1	Pos ^{NP}	22.6	23.3	22.0	24.7	24.1	22.8	23.9	24.4	22.1	Pos
2	Pos ^{NP}	24.8	25.3	23.6	27.4	26.7	24.8	26.9	27.1	24.3	Pos
3	Pos ^{NP}	36.0	-	33.5	36.3	-	35.6	38.8	-	38.4	Pos
4	Pos ^{NP}	19.8	20.1	19.8	21.2	22.2	20.8	21.3	21.5	21.3	Pos
5	Pos ^{NP}	34.4	31.5	31.9	36.5	35.6	32.4	37.0	35.4	33.9	Pos
6	Pos ^{NP}	32.5	-	36.5	>39	-	37.7	31.2	-	35.9	Pos
7	Pos ^{NP}	29.4	28.5	27.0	32.8	31.0	29.3	33.0	31.8	28.4	Pos
8	Pos ^{NP}	31.7	31.2	31.0	35.0	33.3	34.0	>39	33.2	32.6	Pos
9	Pos ^{NP}	33.7	34.4	32.5	>39	37.3	36.4	35.5	>39	34.3	Pos
10	Pos ^{NP}	27.9	27.1	25.3	29.7	28.6	26.7	29.5	28.4	26.9	Pos
11	Pos ^{NP}	28.2	27.9	26.7	29.8	30.0	28.4	29.9	30.2	28.8	Pos
12	Pos ^{NP}	24.1	25.0	24.0	26.0	26.2	24.5	25.6	26.6	24.6	Pos
13	Pos ^{NP}	29.7	29.5	29.3	32.4	31.4	29.7	31.5	31.2	29.9	Pos
14	Pos ^{NP}	27.1	27.9	26.9	28.7	30.3	27.7	28.7	29.2	27.7	Pos
15	Pos ^{NP}	30.0	30.5	28.8	33.3	32.4	30.2	31.2	31.3	29.5	Pos
16	Pos ^{NP}	24.5	24.8	24.3	28.0	28.5	26.3	26.9	27.4	25.9	Pos
17	Pos ^{NP}	25.6	26.1	25.3	27.0	27.4	26.3	27.1	27.6	26.6	Pos
18	Pos ^{NP}	25.4	26.3	26.4	27.5	28.4	27.7	28.3	29.1	28.1	Pos
19	Pos ^{NP}	28.2	26.4	26.2	31.3	28.5	27.6	31.8	27.6	28.8	Pos
20	Pos ^{NP}	26.6	26.7	25.3	28.9	28.8	26.7	28.4	28.6	26.3	Pos
21	Pos ^{NP}	26.8	27.2	26.4	28.5	29.2	27.7	29.4	28.7	28.0	Pos
22	Pos ^{NP}	24.4	24.7	24.4	26.4	26.4	25.0	25.9	26.3	25.0	Pos
23	Pos ^{NP}	21.5	22.0	21.8	23.0	23.4	22.3	22.5	23.3	22.4	Pos
24	Pos ^{NP}	21.7	22.1	22.0	24.1	23.7	23.2	24.1	23.0	23.8	Pos
25	Pos ^{NP}	30.9	28.6	32.8	33.9	31.7	34.9	34.8	30.7	35.0	Pos

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Sample #	Nasal swab result NP/MT	Blinded saliva samples between three laboratories (Cq values)									
		N gene			ORF1ab gene			S gene			Final saliva result
		VUW	IGENZ	UIUC	VUW	IGENZ	UIUC	VUW	IGENZ	UIUC	
26	Pos ^{NP}	25.8	26.5	25.8	28.0	28.6	27.0	27.7	28.4	27.2	Pos
27	Pos ^{MT}	32.1	31.7	30.8	34.3	34.7	32.1	36.4	34.6	33.1	Pos
28	Pos ^{MT}	26.7	27.3	27.0	28.0	28.2	27.5	28.7	29.0	28.5	Pos
29	Pos ^{MT}	24.3	24.3	24.1	26.6	25.4	24.7	25.6	24.7	25.1	Pos
30	Pos ^{MT}	29.2	29.9	28.1	31.3	31.0	28.9	32.1	31.6	29.6	Pos
31	Pos ^{MT}	35.0	35.2	37.4	35.0	>39	>39	>39	39.2	36.7	Pos
32	Pos ^{NP}	>39	>39	>39	>39	>39	>39	>39	>39	>39	Neg*
33	Pos ^{NP}	35.2	>39	35.6	>39	37.3	>39	>39	>39	>39	Indet
33 (retest)	Pos ^{NP}		>39	36.1		>39	35.9		>39	36.7	Pos
34	Neg ^{NP}	>39	37.1	36.0	>39	>39	35.4	>39	>39	36.3	Pos*