Dec 23rd, 2021

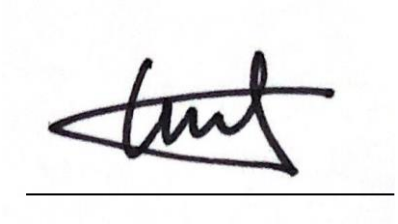
Impact of the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 on BTNX's Rapid Response® COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test Device

The new variant of SARS-CoV-2, Omicron (B.1.1.529), was first reported to WHO on Nov. 24th from South Africa, where infections have risen steeply. Since then, it has caused great concerns globally.This new variant carries over 30 genetic changes due to mutations, primarily affecting the Spike (S) protein of SARS-CoV-2.

BTNX's Rapid Response® COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test Device is designed to detect the SARS-CoV-2 viral **nucleocapsid protein**. Mutations of the nucleocapsid protein for the Omicron variant include P13L, Δ31-33, R203K, and G204R. BTNX has urgently analysed the sequences from the Omicron variant to understand the implication of these mutations. Based on our analysis, we anticipate that the Rapid Response® COVID-19 Antigen Test Device will detect the Omicron variant.

BTNX has completed experiments to confirm that Rapid Response® COVID-19 antigen Rapid Test Device can detect the recombinant nucleocapsid protein of the Omicron variant. The detection limits for the Omicron variant and the wild-type strain are similar, therefore, we conclude that the Rapid Response® COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test Device can effectively detect the Omicron variant.

BTNX continues to follow the latest findings on COVID-19 and remains committed to maintaining the highest level of excellency in our products.



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