

Dear Shane,

I am writing to confirm that testing of the Steriflock™ nylon-fiber-tipped nasopharyngeal swab passed PCR testing as described in Callahan et al. Clin. Microbiol. 2020 (PMID: 32393482). The aforementioned swab does not inhibit the Abbott SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test run on the Abbott m2000 platform. To determine this, we placed the, tip downward, breaking the swab off at the breakpoint and submerging the tip in 3mL of modified CDC VTM (Hank's balanced salt solution containing: 2% heat inactivated FBS, 100µg/mL gentamicin, 0.5µg/mL fungizone, and 10mg/L Phenol red) overnight to allow any PCR-inhibitory material to leach into the medium, spiking 1.5mL with 200 copies/mL of control SARS-CoV-2 amplicon target (representing 2 times the limit of detection on our system), vortexing, and testing using the Abbott RealTime SARS-CoV-2 Assay on an Abbott m2000 RealTime System platform, following the same protocol as for clinical testing (37 cycles, with Ct ≤31.50 being reported as positive). The Steriflock™ nylon-fiber-tipped nasopharyngeal swab had a Ct value of 24.55.

Sincerely,



Mr. Cody Callahan