

Siemens SARS-CoV-2 testing portfolio detects omicron

January 2022—Siemens Healthineers announced that the company's SARS-CoV-2 tests are designed to detect the omicron variant. The company evaluated the potential impact of the variant on the Clinitest Rapid COVID-19 antigen test; the FTD SARS-CoV-2 assay, a PCR test; and the Atellica IM/Advia Centaur SARS-CoV-2 antigen assay (CoV2Ag).

To assess the potential impact of the Clinitest rapid test and the CoV2Ag assay, Siemens' R&D team analyzed the sequence data of the omicron variant nucleocapsid protein, which demonstrated greater than 98 percent sequence homology of the nucleocapsid protein to other SARS-CoV-2 variants. The Clinitest Rapid COVID-19 Antigen Self-Test has a sensitivity of 97.25 percent and a specificity of 100 percent compared with a PCR, or nucleic acid-detection method, and provides results in 15 minutes.

The CoV2Ag test shows strong alignment compared with automated RT-PCR testing, with sensitivity exceeding 96 percent and specificity exceeding 99 percent for the Atellica CoV2Ag test. The Atellica IM analyzer can run up to 440 tests per hour.

Siemens also confirmed, based on in silico analysis, that the FTD SARS-CoV-2 assay detects the omicron variant.

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