

Test Kits in Victoria- Dr McGregor

Twitter posts circa September/October 2020

Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI) is the Chinese company chosen to provide test kits to Victoria. <https://bgi-australia.com.au/covid-19-updates-1> BGI specialises in making test kits for DNA collection. No other state in Australia has obtained their kits from this company but instead rejected them. Not even the United States of America has selected these kits. BGI test kits were banned from California by the CIA as they were deemed a security threat.

These kits are reported to be some of the most unreliable in the world. BGI was sourced by Minderoo, an Australian company with a history of dealings with China procuring 10 million of these kits in April 2020 at a cost of \$189 million. Mindaroo got an extra \$320 million from the Australian Government for procurement. The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) has written reports that BGI is a National Security Threat. BGI has been accused of being an arm of the CCP and building a Genetic database of Western Populations as well as non-Han ethnic Populations. This is ostensibly for genetic offensive weapons programs. BGI has been building this database in Wuhan. <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/genomic-surveillance>

The Victorian government did not tender for the test kits from anywhere else including Australian suppliers, thus not giving any other company the opportunity. The TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration) made a special legal exemption to grant BGI fast-track access to the Australian market. The Doherty Institute approved the kits by way of fast tracking approval. The Health Minister or CHO or Premier or all of them at the time approved these kits despite objection by the relevant body, PTA (Pathology Technology Australia). PTA filed an audit stating there was "more than enough technology in the field". There were also BGI Proprietary platforms/machines/reagents supplied to "read" the results. The BGI testing kits were flown into Tullamarine Airport (Melbourne) on Chinese Airlines for delivery to Private Pathology Practices in Victoria.

They have been brought in batches, at intervals, since mid-May - just before the Victorian outbreak began.

These testing kits use RT-PCR technology. (Reverse Transcriptase - Polymerase Chain Reaction) testing kits.

Contract tracing of false-positive people creates more testing and more false-positives.

Indeed for this very reason RT-PCR was NEVER intended (by the inventors) to be a population screening test.

RT-PCR was only meant be used on selected patients with a high "index of suspicion".

A false-positive occurs when someone is tested for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and returns a positive test but is actually virus free.

They are normal but the test says they are not.

False-positives are measured by the Specificity of the tests.

If a test is 100% Specific then no false-positives occur.

In other words every positive test is correct.

No testing kit ever has 100% Specificity under clinical conditions.

So by corollary if a test is NOT 100% Specific THEN you will get false-positives and hence people being told they have COVID-19 when they don't. Ref Dr

Theoretically if the Specificity is low (say arbitrarily <98%) then the outbreak could build and continue forever - so long as testing continues.

False-positives can occur due to:

- i) Collection from the wrong patient - mislabeling
- ii) Transcription mistakes - wrong result/data entry by the Lab Scientist
- iii) Incorrect interpretation of the results by the Lab Scientist
- iv) Contamination of primary specimen
- v) Contamination of reagents in the kit by amplicon (piece of RNA used in testing process)
- vi) Contamination by control standard
- vii) Self-priming by amplification of non-specific PCR products from multiple cycling above the Cycling threshold (Ct)
- viii) Non-target genetic material cross-reactivity

Choosing the right primer/probe is critical to prevent cross-reactivity and identify the correct virus.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/guide/howto/design-pcr-primers/>

So which primers/probes are being used by the Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI) in their Victorian test kits? It has not been disclosed.