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# PANDEMIC BUSINESS TRAVEL

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QUOMODO VADIS?

*Dr Albie de Frey*

De Frey en Vennote Ing.

TRAVEL DOCTOR  
C O R P O R A T E

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*18 March 2021*



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**

**Division of the National Health Laboratory Service**



1951



2021



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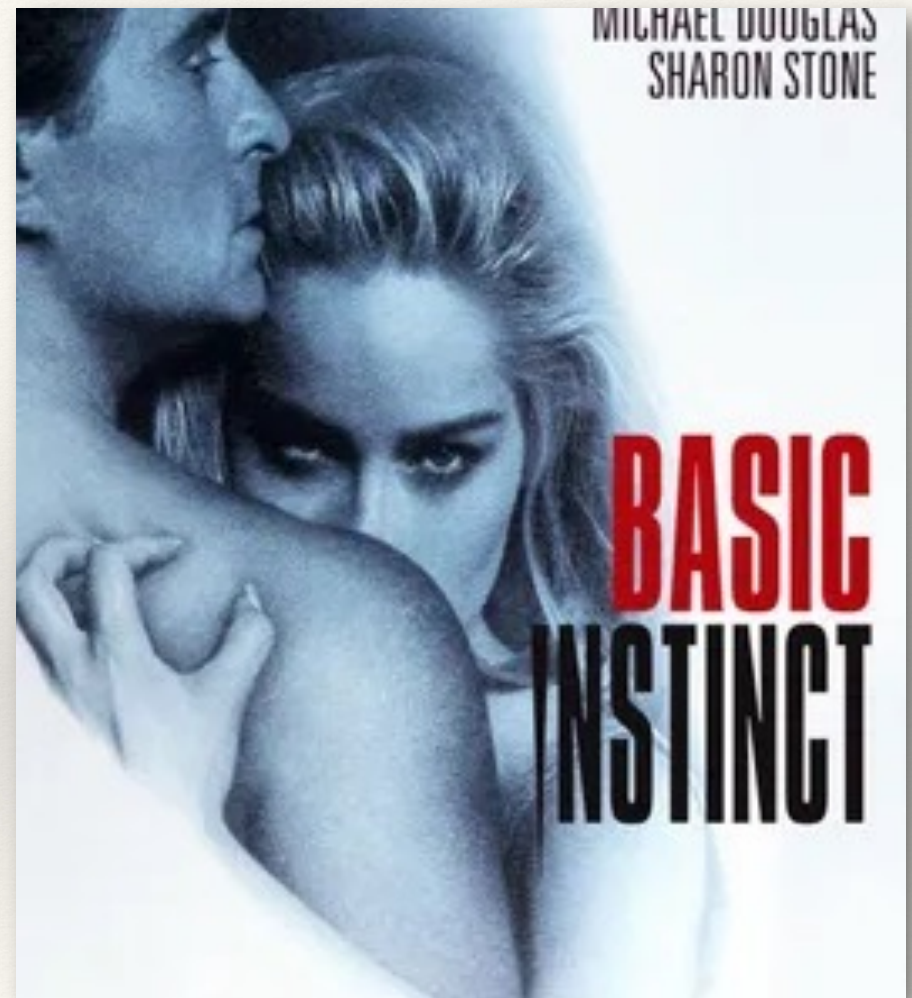
Don't forget The Basics

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# Pre-existing / Chronic Conditions

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- ❖ 50% of people who travel for work are older than 40 years
- ❖ 50% of them have pre-existing disease:
  - ❖ Obesity, Hypertension, Diabetes (Type II), Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)...



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# COVID-19 SEVERITY RISK

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- ❖ Increases independently and steadily with age
- ❖ Higher in persons (regardless of age) with underlying medical conditions.
- ❖ Comorbidities by level of evidence:
- ❖ **Strong :**
  - ❖ Serious heart conditions – CAD, heart failure, cardiomyopathies, pulmonary HPT
  - ❖ Obesity (BMI > 30), Smoking, COPD, Diabetes TII, Cancer, Chronic kidney disease,
- ❖ **Mixed:**
  - ❖ Asthma, Cerebrovascular disease, Hypertension, ...

# Pre-existing Conditions / Comorbidities for C19

## Pre-existing / Chronic Conditions

- ❖ 50% of people who travel for work are older than 40 years
- ❖ 50% of them have pre-existing disease:
  - ❖ Obesity, Hypertension, Diabetes (Type II), Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)...

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Pre-deployment screening for Co-morbid disease is Life-saving

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# Education - Travel Health

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- ❖ All travel health risks
- ❖ Malaria
- ❖ Non-vaccine preventable disease
- ❖ Vaccine preventable disease:
  - ❖ ...and Covid-19
  - ❖ ...and Ebola (DRC and Guinea Conakry)

# Malaria

## ❖ Malaria STILL kills...

❖ 54yr old mine worker ex Copper Belt, Malawi

❖ Week in quarantine, exit medical

❖ Died in Casualty - had been sick for 2 weeks

❖ 40yr old expat from Nigeria, October 2020

❖ 2 plus 2 weeks quarantine

❖ Hospitalised: (?) Septicaemia

❖ *P ovale* ....





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# Malaria

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- ❖ Don't get bitten
- ❖ Seek early DIAGNOSIS and Treatment
- ❖ Take "The Pill"

*EVERY FEVER is malaria until proven otherwise*

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# Vaccine Preventable Disease

- ❖ UPDATE:
  - ❖ EPI Vaccines
  - ❖ Yellow Fever
  - ❖ “Travel vaccines”



RABID JACKAL BITE....

*EVERY VACCINE PREVENTS A POSSIBLE (DIFFICULT) MEDEVAC*



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# Travel Insurance

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- ❖ ESSENTIAL BUT:
  - ❖ Check the Terms and Conditions!

*Is Covid-19 covered?*

- ❖ Pre-existing Medical Conditions
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Malaria
- ❖ Vaccine Preventable Disease
- ❖ Travel Insurance





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# Country Entry Requirements

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# Country Entry Requirements

- ❖ Changes every day
- ❖ "Fluid"
- ❖ Often non-sensical
- ❖ Politically motivated
- ❖ Driven by politicians, not doctors



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# Country Entry Requirements

- ❖ Check official country websites
- ❖ NOT Facebook etc.
- ❖ Check *airline* website
- ❖ Beware of telephonic Embassy advice....

## UK detects South African coronavirus variant in people with no travel links

Reuters  
Published: Feb 01 at 12:30 p.m.  
Updated: Feb 01 at 4:42 p.m.



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# Double Future

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# Double Future

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- ❖ SCREENING FOR CURRENT INFECTION
- ❖ VACCINATION AGAINST SARS-Co-V-2

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# SCREENING FOR CURRENT INFECTION

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- ❖ PCR / NAAT testing is the “Gold Standard”

...or is it?

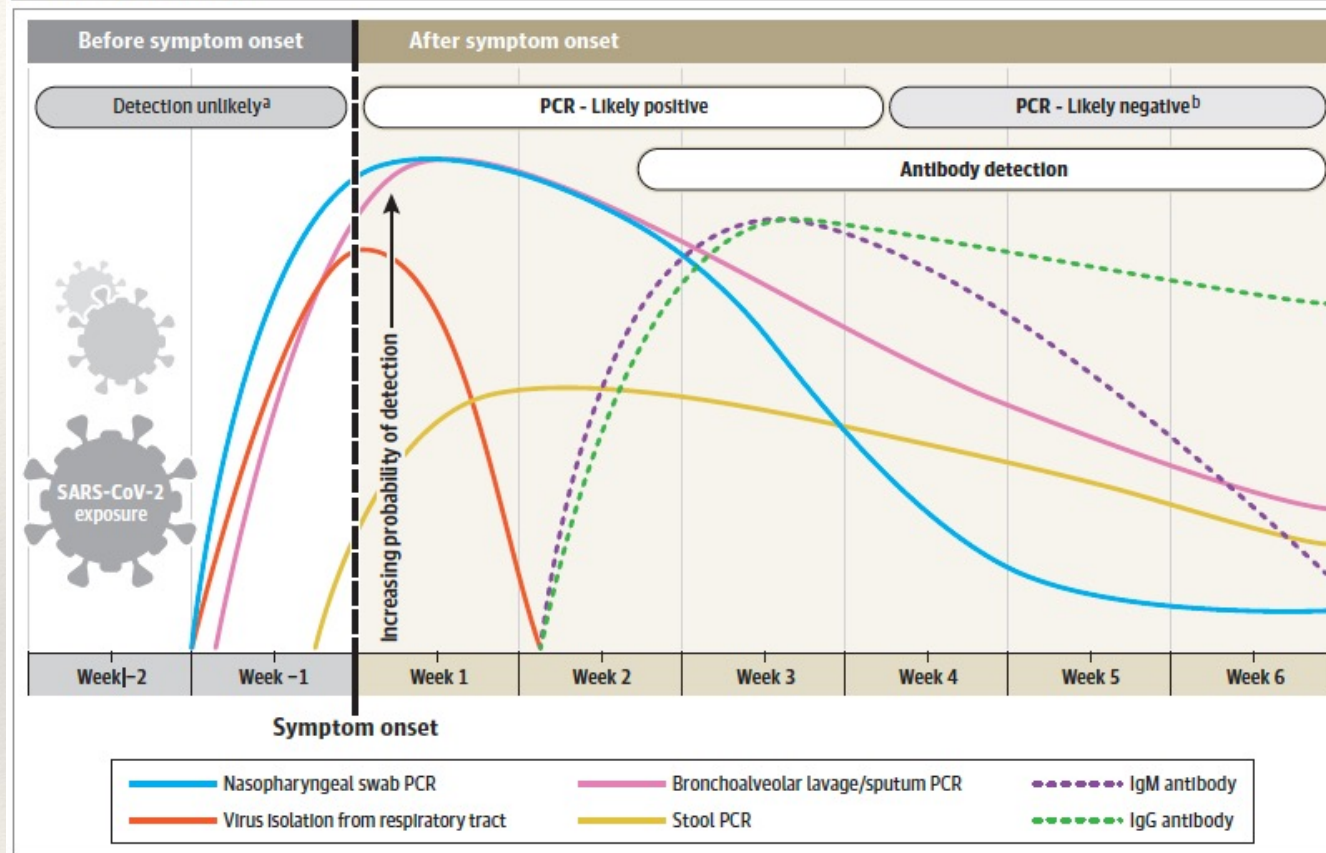
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**Figure. Estimated Variation Over Time in Diagnostic Tests for Detection of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Relative to Symptom Onset**

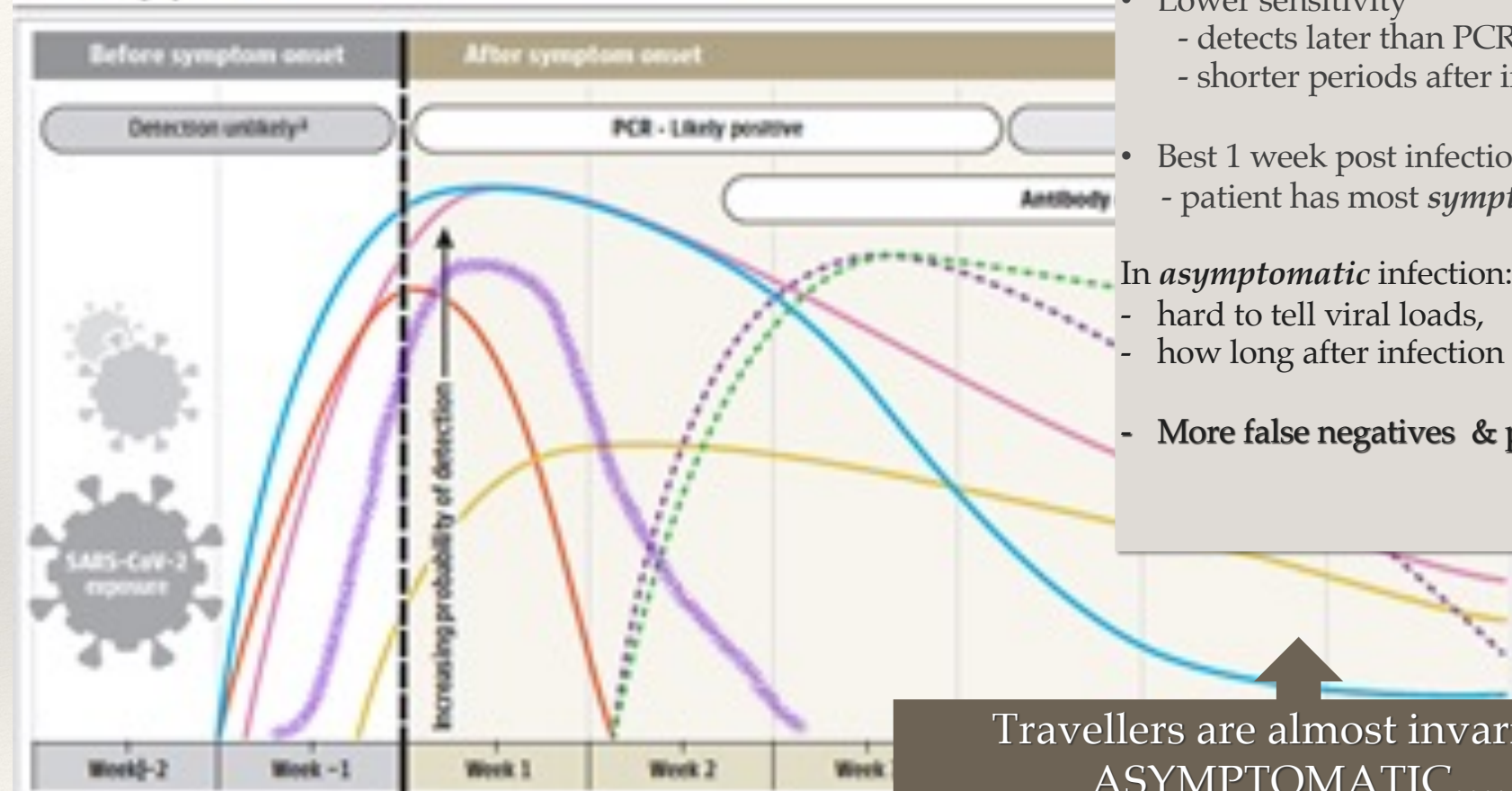


Estimated time intervals and rates of viral detection are based on data from several published reports. Because of variability in values among studies, estimated time intervals should be considered approximations and the probability of detection of SARS-CoV-2 infection is presented qualitatively. SARS-CoV-2 indicates severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2; PCR, polymerase chain reaction.

<sup>a</sup> Detection only occurs if patients are followed up proactively from the time of exposure.

<sup>b</sup> More likely to register a negative than a positive result by PCR of a nasopharyngeal swab.

Figure. Estimated Variation Over Time in Diagnostic Tests for Detection of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Relative to Symptom Onset



## ANTIGEN TESTING

- Lower sensitivity
  - detects later than PCR
  - shorter periods after infection.

- Best 1 week post infection,
  - patient has most *symptoms*.

In *asymptomatic* infection:

- hard to tell viral loads,
- how long after infection
- More false negatives & positives...

Travellers are almost invariably  
ASYMPTOMATIC....

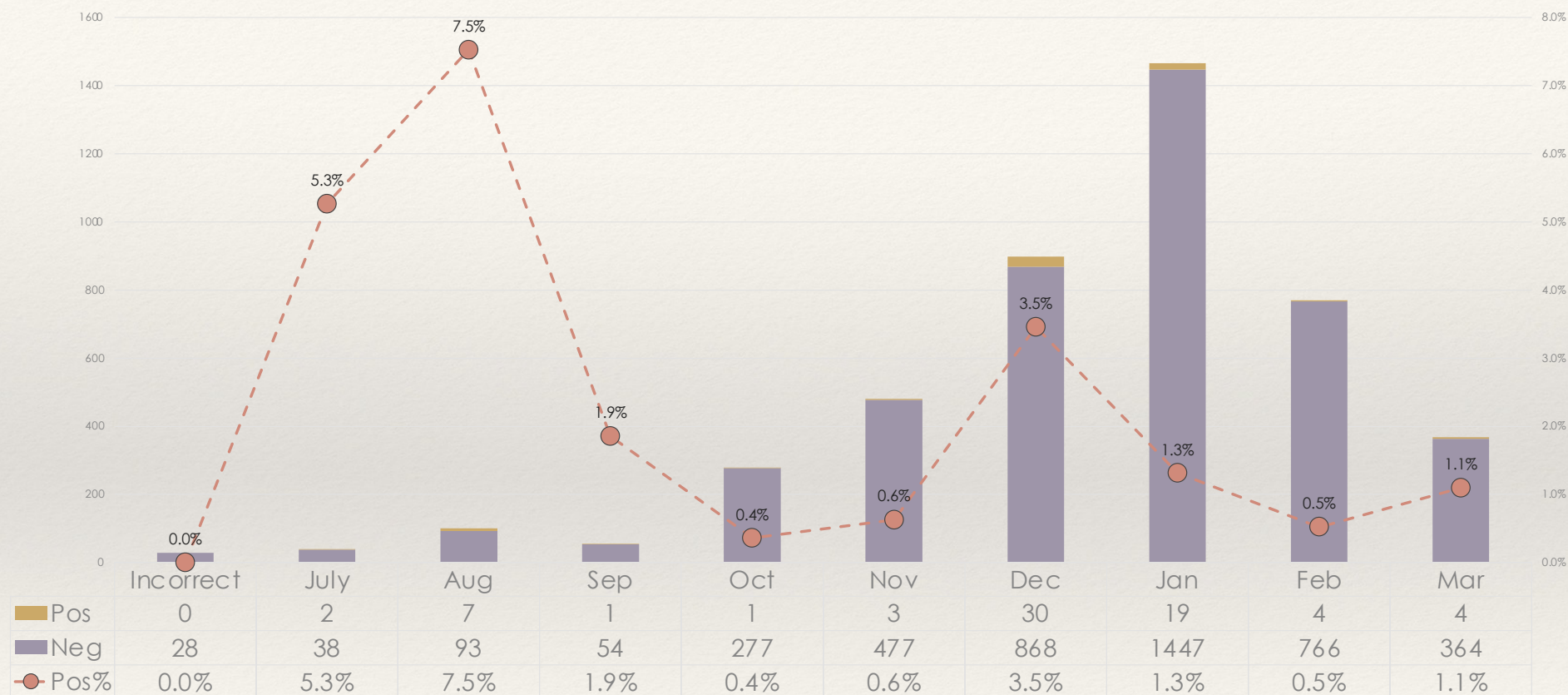
ANTIGEN ----- POSITIVE



# SCREENING FOR CURRENT INFECTION

- ❖ PCR is false negative in  $\pm 30\%$  of actual cases in ILL persons
- ❖ False POSITIVES is a reality but “swept under the table” and ignored by main stream clinicians who work with patients
- ❖ It is a MAJOR problem in travel:
  - ❖ Missed flights and meetings - time and cost
  - ❖ Unnecessary quarantining
    - ❖ Exposure to other infectious diseases...

# Testing June 2020 – 15 March 2021

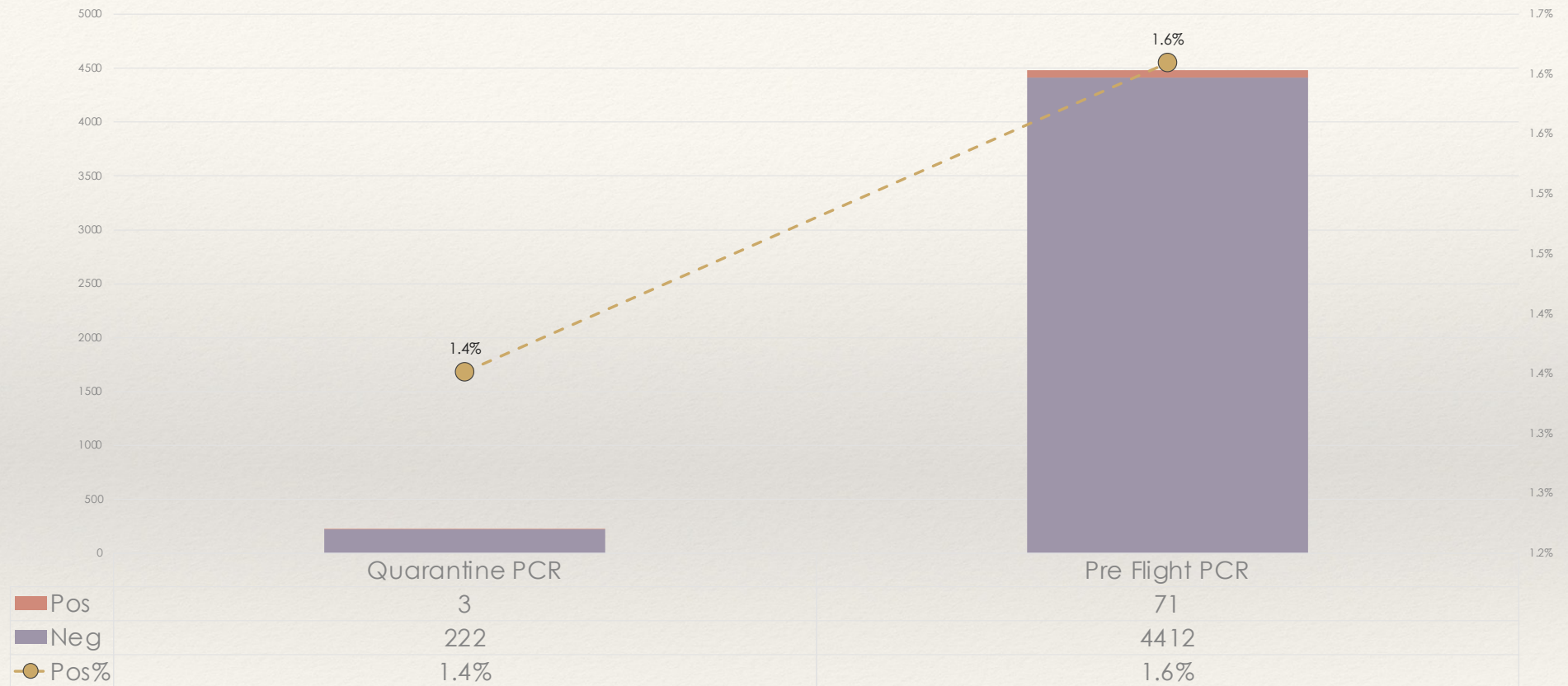


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# Nature / Reason for Testing



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# VACCINATION AGAINST SARS-Co-V-2

 **ALJAZEERA** News ▾ Coronavirus Features Economy Opinion

News | Coronavirus pandemic

## What role could vaccine passports play in the pandemic?

*Several countries are rolling out vaccine passports for those inoculated against the coronavirus, despite concerns over the schemes.*

❖ The WHO says:





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# WHO ON TRAVEL

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- ❖ WHO says:
  - ❖ No travel restrictions
  - ❖ No PCR's / screening of travellers
  - ❖ No vaccine requirement....

*They also say:*

## INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION OR PROPHYLAXIS

## Certificat international de vaccination ou de prophylaxie

This is to certify that <sup>①</sup> Jane Mary Doe <sup>②</sup> 22 March 1960 F United States  
 Nous certifions que (name - nom) (date of birth - date de naissance) (sex - sexe) (nationality - nationalité)

[passport number] whose signature follows <sup>③</sup> Jane Mary Doe  
 (national identification document, if applicable - document d'identification nationale, le cas échéant) dont la signature suit

has on the date indicated been vaccinated or received prophylaxis against <sup>④</sup> Yellow Fever in accordance with the International Health Regulations.  
 a été vaccinée/ ou a reçu une prophylaxie à la date indiquée (name of disease or condition - nom de la maladie ou de l'affection) conformément au Règlement sanitaire international.

Vaccine or prophylaxis Vaccin ou agent prophylactique	Date	Signature and professional status of supervising clinician Signature et titre du professionnel de santé responsable	Manufacturer and batch no. of vaccine or prophylaxis Fabricant du vaccin ou de l'agent prophylactique et numéro du lot	Certificate valid from: until: Certificat valable à partir du : jusqu'à :	Official stamp of the administering center Cachet officiel du centre habilité
<sup>④</sup> Yellow Fever	<sup>⑤</sup> 15 June 2018	<sup>⑥</sup> John M. Smith, MD	[ Batch (or lot) # ]	<sup>⑦</sup> 25 June 2018; life of person vaccinated	[ ⑧ ]



## COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen

### Vaccination card

Make sure you keep this card



Vaccinee Name	[REDACTED]													
Date of Vaccination	9/3/2021													
Lot number	4382358													
Identity/passport number	5	1	0	3	3	1	5	0	0	4	0	8	2	
EVDS vaccination number	QPR2Z7SM													
VACCINATOR DETAILS														
Name and Surname	Delfina M. M. M. M.													
Signature	[Signature]				Date	09/03/21								



health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PROOF OF VACCINATION CODE

VLNWWNAH9XC3



Should you have any concerns please contact:  
Sisonke (Together) safety number 0800-014-956

**COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen**  
Vaccination card  
Make sure you keep this card!

Vaccine Name: Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine  
Date of Vaccination: 13/02/2021  
Lot number: 4382355  
Identity passport number: 5103315  
COVID vaccination number: 0PR22

**VACCINATION DETAILS**  
Name and Surname: De Jongh  
Signature: [Signature] Date: 13/02/2021

**INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION OR PROPHYLAXIS**  
Certificat international de vaccination ou de prophylaxie

This is to certify that (name) .....  
date of birth ..... sex.....  
nationality .....  
national identification document, if applicable .....  
whose signature follows .....

has on the date indicated been vaccinated or received  
prophylaxis against: (name of disease or condition)  
.....

in accordance with the International Health Regulations.

## INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION OR PROPHYLAXIS

This is to certify that (name) .....  
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in accordance with the International Health Regulations.

Vaccine or prophylaxis Vaccin ou agent prophylactique	Date Date	Signature and professional status of supervising clinician Signature et titre du clinicien responsable
Yellow Fever		
C19 Vax		

## CERTIFICAT INTERNATIONAL DE VACCINATION OU DE PROPHYLAXIE

Nous certifions que [nom] .....  
né(e) le ..... de sexe.....  
et de nationalité.....  
document d'identification national, le cas échéant .....  
dont la signature suit.....

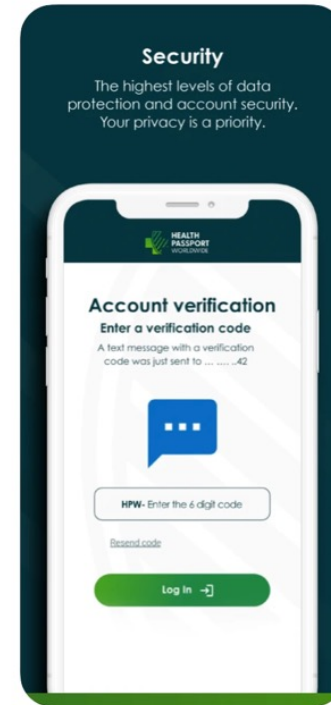
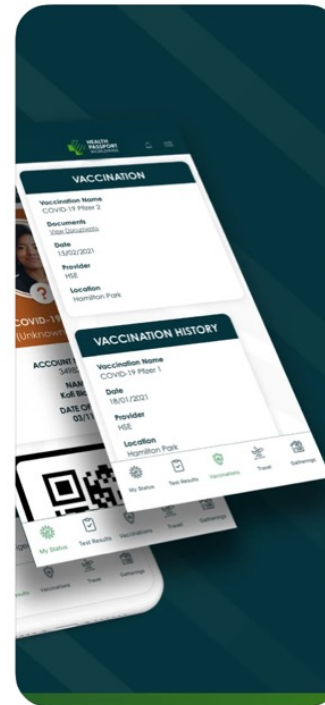
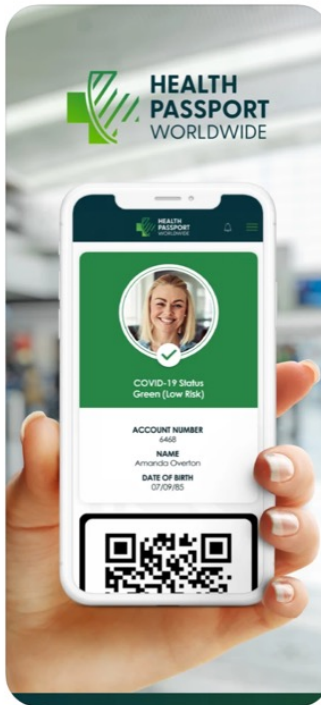
a été vacciné(e) ou a reçu des agents prophylactiques à la date  
indiquée contre: (nom de la maladie ou de l'affection)  
.....  
conformément ou Règlement sanitaire international.

Manufacturer and batch no. of vaccine or prophylaxis Fabricant du vaccin ou de l'agent prophylactique et numéro du lot	Certificate valid from: until: Certificat valable à partir du: jusqu'au:	Official stamp of administering centre Cachet officiel du centre habilité



# IMMUNITY PASSPORTS

## iPhone Screenshots

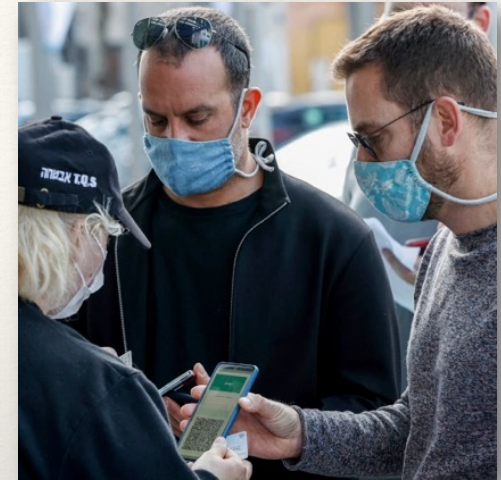


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# IMMUNITY PASSPORTS

- ❖ Controversial...
- ❖ WHO says “No”
- ❖ Bio-ethicists says “No”



*Real world says: YES - we want our lives (and WORK) back*

It IS happening



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# BLEAK FUTURE?

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# ZOMBIELAND

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- ❖ The “South African Variant”!
  - ❖ WHO says:
    - ❖ No travel restrictions
    - ❖ No PCR’s / screening of travellers
    - ❖ No vaccine requirements

*.... in reality it is what is happening*



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# A CALL TO ARMS....

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# CALL TO ARMS

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- ❖ ADVOCATE on behalf of Travel for Work
- ❖ QUESTION unscientific, unreasonable, obstructive regulations
- ❖ VACCINATE
  - ❖ Yourself
  - ❖ Your Travellers

*WE MUST HAVE vaccines for Travel for work - NOW!*



*The End*