Salvagene GROUP

Business Unit: SARS-CoV-2 Task Force

Keynote: #51

December 2020

The Salvagene Task Force continues to recommend postponing a vaccination with the BioNTech vaccine for reasons repeated in our keynote yesterday.

Dear Premium Customers,

We are issuing this current warning because the B.1.1.7 straint of the virus means that this vaccination may have a reduced effect. While we cannot completely rule out this risk, we do not rate it very highly.

Yesterday we reported in detail why this might be a risk. For these reasons we made inquiries to the FDA, the EMA and the German STIKO, as well as to the developer BioNTech themselves. The statement by the CEO of BioNTech says that the vaccine has already been tested with 20 different virus straints, but that they also started now a project where the B.1.1.7 straint is explicitly tested with the vaccine again. A final statement is expected in about 2 weeks. Due to our close connections to BioNTech, we trust this company very much. The EMA will also comment on this today and, like BioNTech itself, will probably carry out a revision. The FDA has not yet issued an official statement on this. But there is an unofficial announcement that this straint is already being discussed there too. We also contacted Moderna, as they have an emergency approval for their vaccine in the USA. From our point of view, they

do not have a project on this virus straint. We therefore definitely recommend to wait for a vaccination with the Moderna vaccine at the moment. We have also intensified our connections with gene laboratories in England, not only because there, the variant B.1.1.7 was discovered on the 20th of September, but also because they show high competencies in the field of genetics and the highest sequencing of the SARS-CoV2 genome worldwide.

If Salvagene customers have decided to get a vaccination despite our current recommendations, we urgently advise them to wait until the beginning of January at least.

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