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## Authors' response

While agreeing with our findings, the researchers have suggested that the RT-PCR kit cut-offs should be adjusted by adding four cycles to the  $C_{\rm T}$  cut-off recommended by the manufacturer wherever pooled sample testing is being undertaken. This suggestion is based on the experiments conducted by the researchers in their laboratory. We have not conducted any such experiments and therefore, we are not in a position to comment on this suggestion.

Ira Praharaj¹, Amita Jain³, Mini Singh⁴, Anukumar Balakrishnan⁵, Rahul Dhodapkar⁶, Biswajyoti Borkakotyⁿ, Munivenkatappa Ashokፆ, Pradeep Das⁰, Debasis Biswas¹⁰, Usha Kalawat¹¹, Jyotirmayee Turuk¹², A.P. Sugunan⁵, Shantanu Prakash³, Anirudh K. Singh¹⁰, Rajamani Barathidasan⁶, Subhra Subhadra¹², Jyotsnamayee Sabat¹², M.J. Manjunathፆ, Poonam Kanta⁴, Nagaraja Mudhigeti¹¹, Rahul Hazarika<sup>7</sup>, Hricha Mishra<sup>3</sup>, Kumar Abhishek<sup>9</sup>, C. Santhalembi<sup>5</sup>, Manas Ranjan Dikhit<sup>9</sup>, Neetu Vijay<sup>2</sup>, Jitendra Narayan<sup>2</sup>, Harmanmeet Kaur<sup>2</sup>, Sidhartha Giri<sup>1</sup> & Nivedita Gupta<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Divsion of Epidemiology & Communicable Diseases, Indian Council of Medical Research, <sup>2</sup>Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi, <sup>3</sup>Department of Microbiology, King George's Medical University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, <sup>4</sup>Department of Virology, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, <sup>5</sup>ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Kerala Unit, Alappuzha, Kerala, <sup>6</sup>Department of Microbiology, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research, Puducherry, <sup>7</sup>Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh, Assam, 8ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Bangalore Unit, Bengaluru, Karnataka, 9ICMR-Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, Bihar, <sup>10</sup>Department of Microbiology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, <sup>11</sup>Department of Microbiology, Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh & 12ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India. \*For correspondence: guptanivedita.hq@icmr.gov.in