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Unilever identifies mouthwash technology to reduce viral load of SARS-CoV-2

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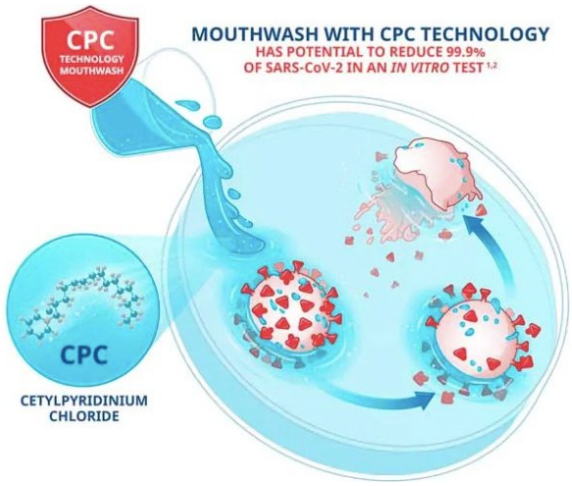
New in vitro test results show that a mouthwash containing CPC Technology is effective in reducing SARS-CoV-2 viral load



Unilever has confirmed that preliminary lab test results show that a mouthwash formulation containing CPC Technology, reduces 99.9 per cent of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, after 30 seconds of rinsing.

The preliminary test results on SARS-CoV-2 build on existing Unilever research published on the biology research platform bioRxiv, and follow ongoing discussions in the global medical and scientific community around the potential use of mouthwash as an additional measure to reduce the transmission of the virus. Research into the duration of the effect continues, but a previous study on a small group of patients infected with COVID-19 suggest that viral load – the amount of virus particles a person is carrying - may be reduced in the mouth for up to six hours by using mouthwashes containing CPC.

These preliminary test results, showing the efficacy of CPC Technology against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, are the latest in a large range of studies that are evaluating the efficacy of mouthwash technology against a number of viruses. In the tests we have done, only CPC Technology has to date shown positive results consistently.

Glyn Roberts PhD, Head, Unilever Oral Care R&D, says, “The results of the study are a promising step on our journey to understanding how mouthwashes could help reduce the spread of coronavirus, alongside other preventative measures. Although our research is ongoing, we are sharing the results now so people can consider introducing a CPC-based mouthwash into their daily routine.

Professor Iain Chapple, Head, Research for Institute of Clinical Sciences, University of Birmingham, UK, says, “Given its long history of safe use, and wide availability across the world, using a mouthwash that contains CPC Technology could offer a simple, effective, and safe step for people to take alongside existing COVID-19 protection and prevention measures as recommended by their health authorities.”

Dr Angela Rasmussen, PhD, Associate Research Scientist, Center of Infection and Immunity, Columbia University School of Public Health, adds, “Other research on the duration of effect of CPC in a mouthwash on bacteria and coronavirus would suggest that the reduction in infectious viral load is likely to be sustained over time.”