

S2 File Assessment of assay sensitivity over time

This control assessment addresses the possibility that the decline in recent infection numbers could be due to an inadvertent increase in sensitivity of the Inno-Lia over time. Similarly, bands of given intensity might over the years be ruled to be of increasing strength. Both types of variation would manifest themselves as antibody reactions of increasingly higher average intensity. As a result, certain samples that would be ruled incident early in the course of the study might be ruled older when tested in later years.

We have checked this possible source of technical artifact by determining the average band intensity for all five antigens in the investigated cohort over time among recent and older infections. While there was some variation in both groups, there was no trend that could be correlated with the observed reduction of incident infections, and we found no difference that would explain the observed changes.

