

Undeclared Hazardous Components in Nasopharyngeal Test Swabs Used in COVID-19 PCR Tests

Peter Grandics
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5 Comments



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We tested two widely used nasopharyngeal test swabs used for COVID-19 PCR test sample collection by the SEM-EDS method. Scanning electron microscopic (SEM) analysis demonstrated fairly uniform artificial fibers that showed a great degree of heterogeneity in their internal composition. Elemental analysis by electron dispersion spectroscopy (EDS) revealed carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, aluminum, and silicon as main components at highly variable concentrations within the cross-sections of the fibers. In some spots, the concentrations of aluminum and silicon were as high as 7.25% and 14.06%, respectively. The base matrix appeared to be nylon with inorganic ingredients mixed in. Aluminum and silicon can both present health hazards, and this can explain the rapid-onset nasal bleed and strong and lasting adverse reactions reported by the tested individuals.

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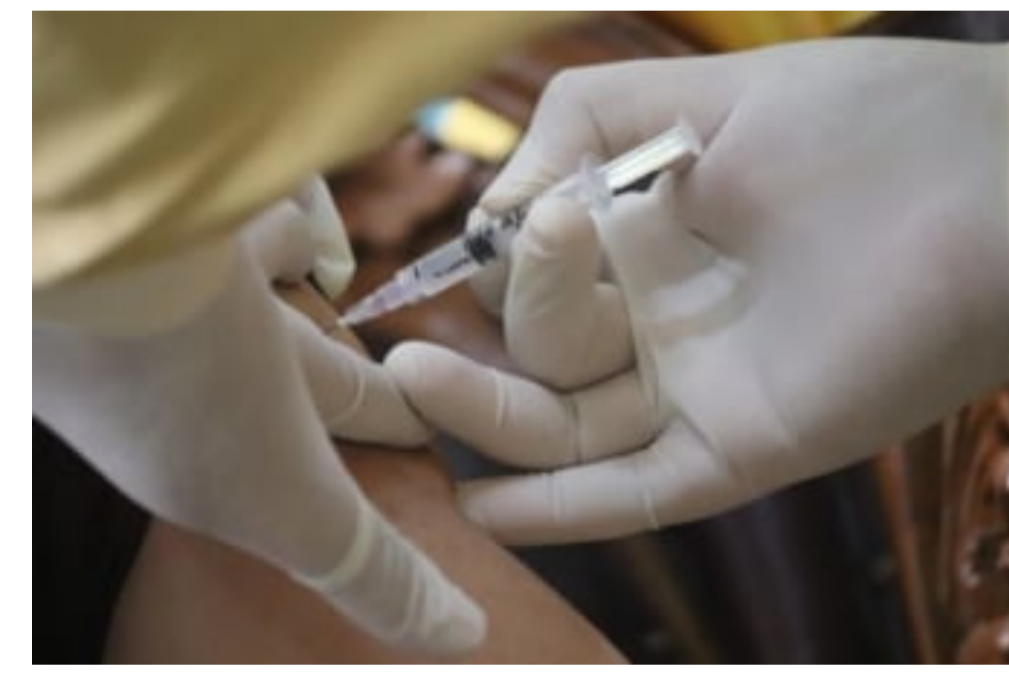
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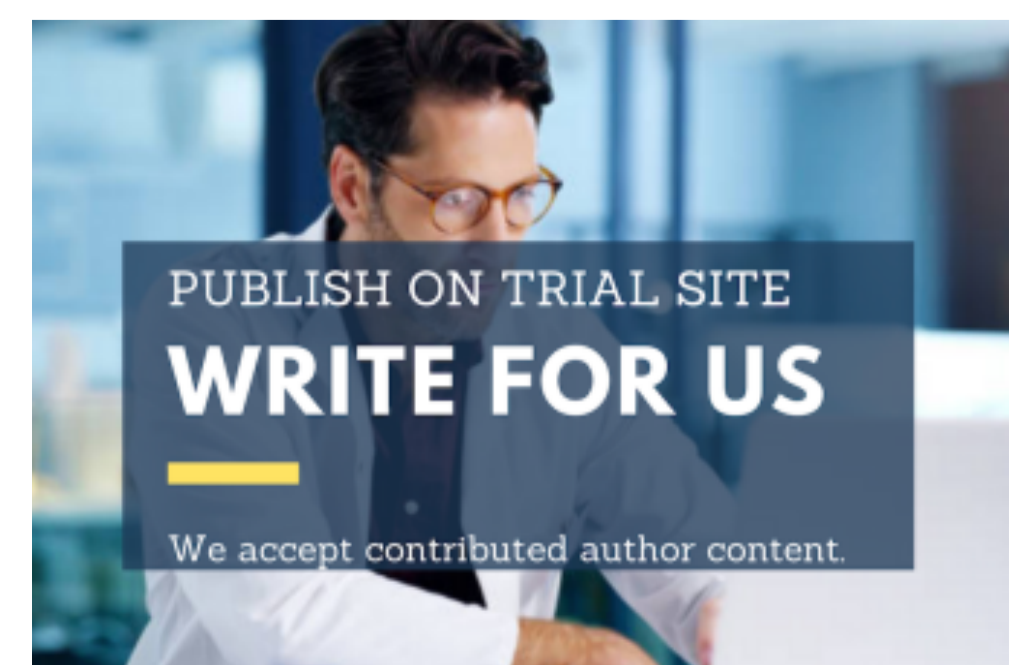
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