

COVID-19: An Update on Testing

Gonzalo Bearman MD, MPH, FACP, FSHEA, FIDSA

**Richard P. Wenzel Professor of Medicine
Chairman- Division of Infectious Diseases
Hospital Epidemiologist**

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Commercially Available SARS-CoV2 Tests

Viral Detection

- Molecular (PCR)
 - Examples*
 - Roche, Abbott, Cepheid, Biofire, Becton Dickinson, ThermoFisher
 - Performance
 - Sensitivity – Very high**
 - Specificity – Very high***

*Systems in yellow currently being used or evaluated at VCUHS.

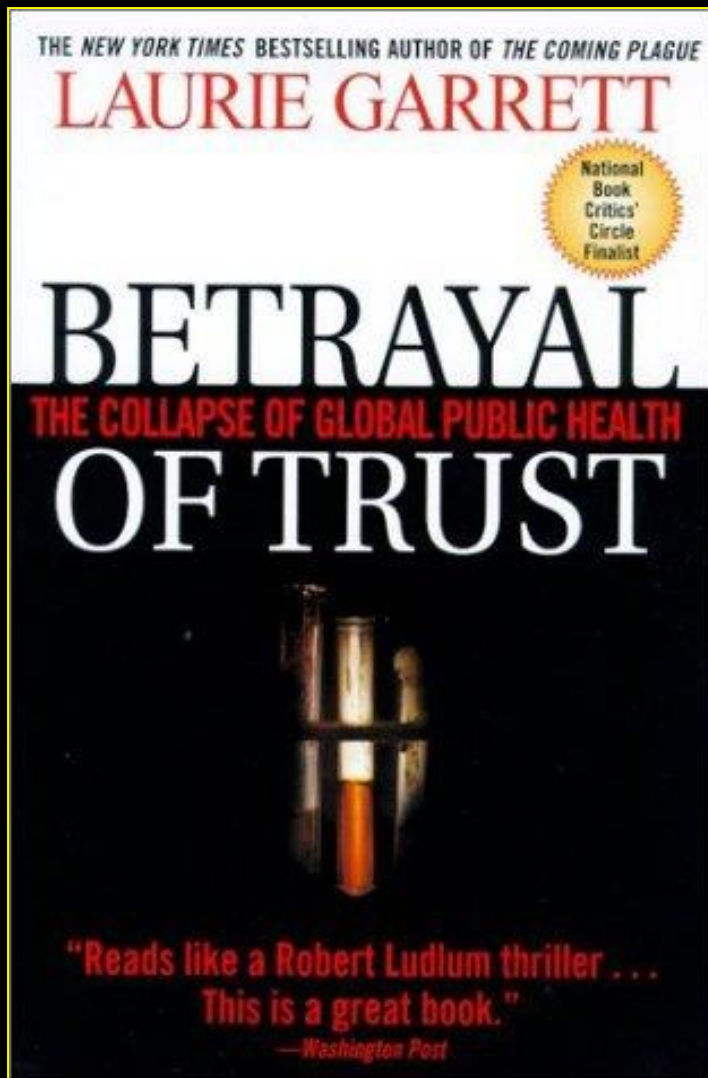
** Most systems detect very low levels of virus but performance in asymptomatic patients is unknown. Performance likely similar to other PCR-based tests

*** Tests do NOT cross react with season coronaviruses.

Serology

- Point of care (finger stick)
 - Examples
 - Numerous
 - Performance
 - Unproven and highly variable.
- High throughput serology
 - Examples
 - Abbott, Diasorin, Roche
 - Performance
 - Sensitivity – Very high
 - Specificity – Very high***

Value of Diagnosis COVID-19: Symptomatic and Asymptomatic Patients



“Public health is an essential trust, between government and its people, in a pursuit of health for all...”

Includes: “...a healthcare system that follows the primary maxim of medicine- do no harm.”

Goal is to maximize safety by identifying asymptomatic / pre-symptomatic patients upon entry into the healthcare system

Value of COVID-19 Testing:

- Symptomatic (mild) outpatient:
 - Social isolation
 - Contact Tracing
 - Surveillance data (drive policy)
- Asymptomatic inpatient / outpatient
 - Diagnosis, isolation, contact tracing
 - Guide PPE use (inpatient, ORs, procedures)
 - Delay / postpone non-emergency procedure
 - Provider fear mitigation strategy
 - Surveillance

What has been the biggest problem with containment?!?



THE DELAY BETWEEN
EXPOSURE AND SHOWING
SYMPTOMS



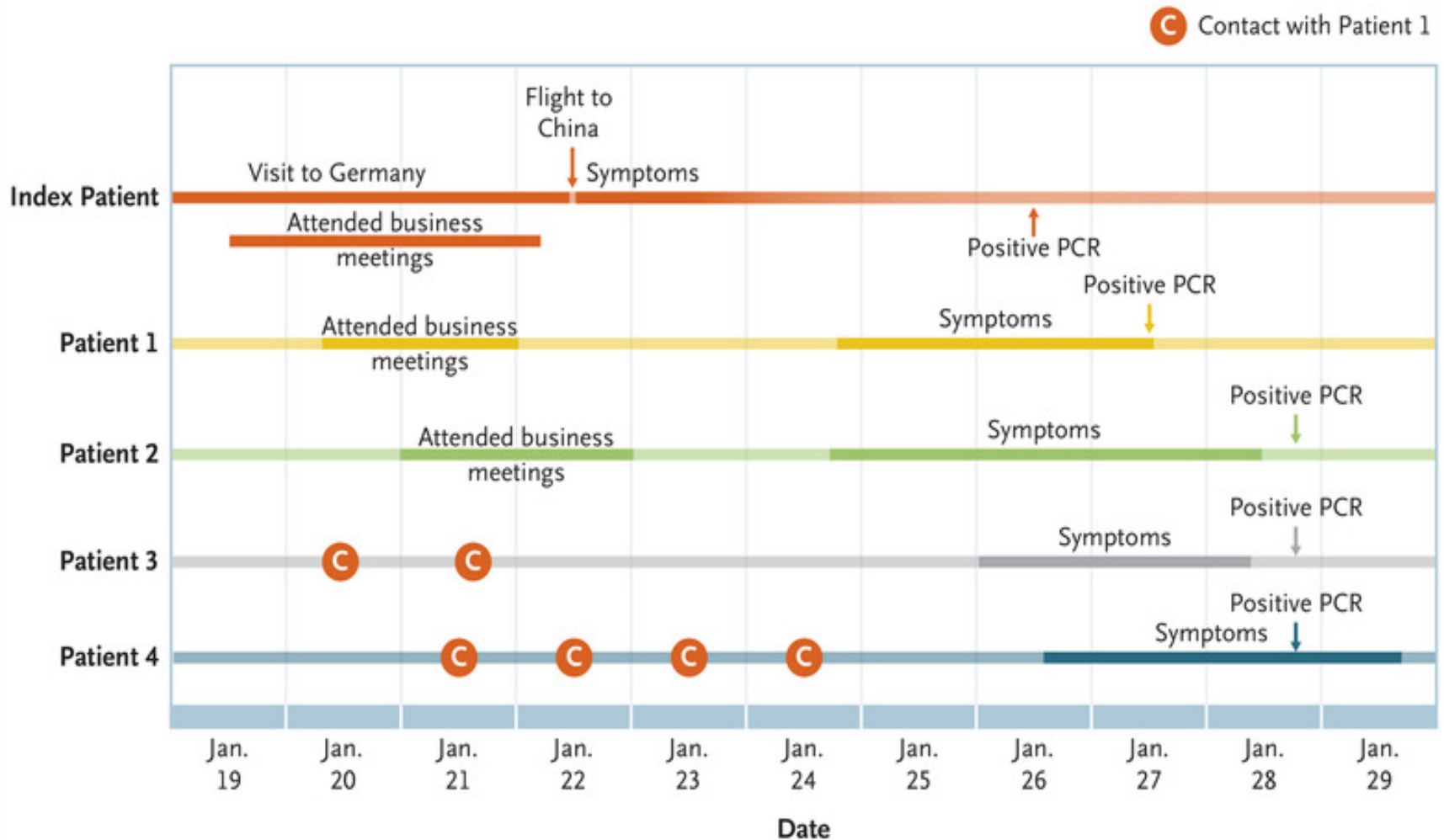
TRANSMISSION FROM
ASYMPTOMATIC HOSTS

Transmission: Respiratory Droplets Among Close Contacts

- Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 person to person is thought to occur mainly through **respiratory droplets**
 - These are **HEAVY**, they tend to spread 3-6 feet & fall to the ground
 - **Droplets do not linger in the air**
 - Sneezing, coughing, talking
- Aerosolization with certain medical procedures
 - I.E. Intubation, bronchoscopy, HFNC, nebulizer



Transmission: Asymptomatic Person

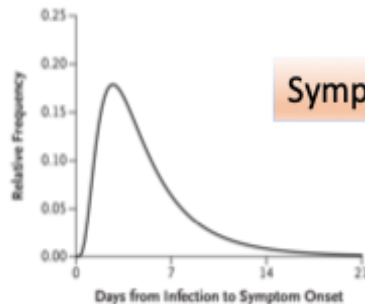
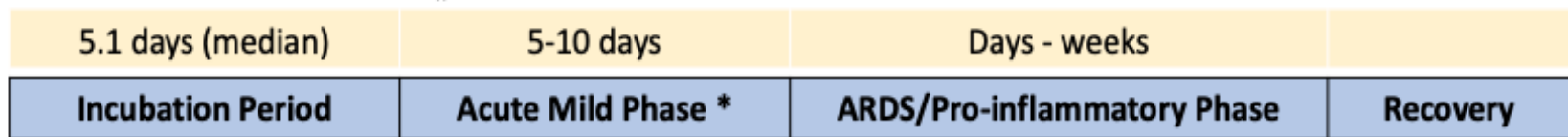
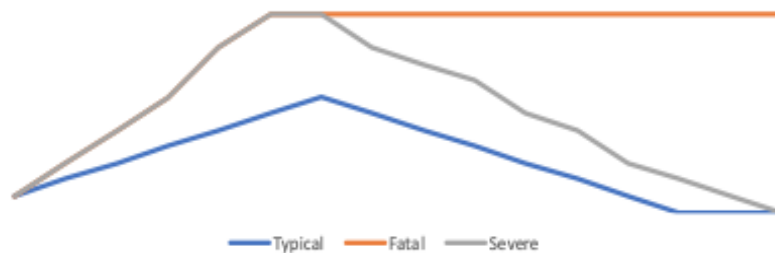


Transmission: Asymptomatic Person

- Diamond Princess cruise ship
 - 3,711 passengers, of whom 634 had confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection
 - Modeling data estimated asymptomatic proportion: **18-40%**
- 565 Japanese nationals evacuated from Wuhan all tested by PCR for SARS-CoV-2 and followed for 14 days
 - Asymptomatic proportion: **20%**

COVID-19 Disease Course

SARS-CoV-2 Viral Load



Symptom onset

Hallmarks: dyspnea, tachypnea, hypoxemia

* Acute Mild Phase: nonspecific symptoms. Most commonly fevers, cough, myalgias, fatigue. Nausea, diarrhea reported <50% of the time

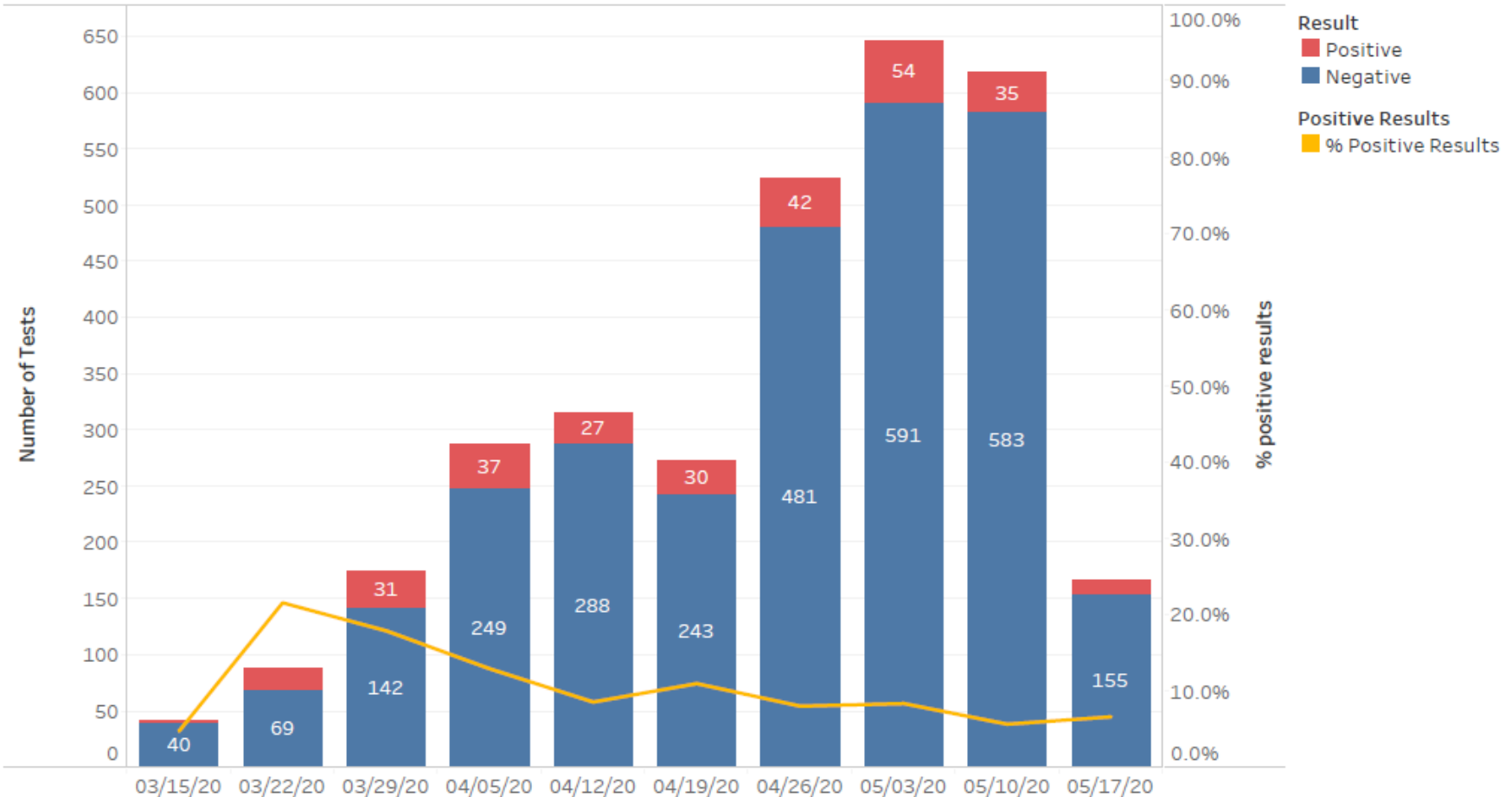
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VCU Health COVID-19 Testing Experience (To Date)....

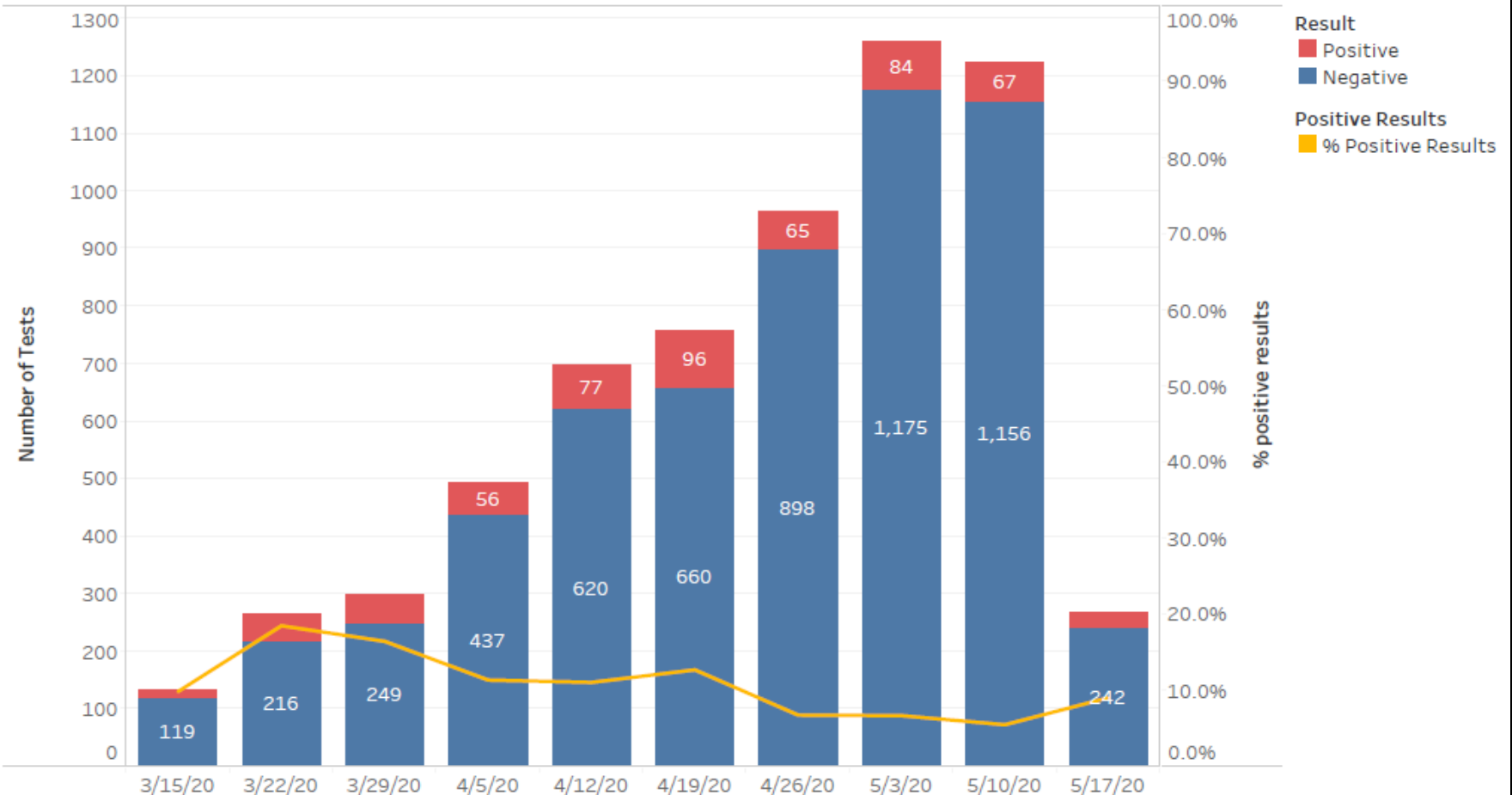
COVID 19 Testing: VCU Health (Inpatient)

COVID 19 Results, by week



COVID 19 Testing: VCU Health Inpatient / Outpatient (total)

COVID 19 Results, by week



VCU SARS Cov2 Testing: May 10 – May 17

- **Hospital Admission**

- Total tests = 618
- Positive = 35 (5.66%)
- Inconclusive = 1 (0.16%)

- **PACE tests**

- Total tests = 209
- Positive = 1 (0.49%)
- Inconclusive = 0

VCU : Pre Procedure COVID 19 Testing Drive Through Sites

Dear Colleagues,

Pre-operative and pre-procedural testing continues at the PACE clinic downtown, the PACE clinic in the NOW Center, and a drive-through location on the [Patient and Visitor Parking Deck](#), 529 N. 12th Street. Starting today, Thursday, May 7, drive-through testing is available at Stony Point 9105.

We have successfully tested 297 pre-op and pre-procedural patients, all with negative results so far.

Rapid testing is available with approval from epidemiology. Rapid testing takes three to four hours to get results from the time the sample is obtained and is the fastest test offered by lab at this time.

The *Satisfice* Approach: Nobel Laureate- Herbert Simon



Satisfice:
combination
of *satisfy* and
suffice

Nobel Prize speech: “..decision makers can satisfice either by finding optimum solutions for a simplified world, or by finding satisfactory solutions for a more realistic world.”

No Perfect Real World COVID-19 Testing Strategy...

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