Author’s response to reviews

Title: Use of saliva to monitor meningococcal vaccine responses: proposing a threshold in saliva as surrogate of protection

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We find the editor’s comments valuable to help improve the quality of the manuscript and we have answered the points raised.

Editor Comments:

1. Thank you for previously clarifying that the youngest participant in your study was of the age of 17. According to the Ethiopian National Research Ethics Review Guideline from the FDRE Ministry of Science and Technology (2014), “Assent will be sought form a study participant under the age of 18 years old… in addition to the consent of the parent.”

In your research, the study participants of the age 17, are legal minors and not allowed to consent for themselves. Therefore, please clarify whether parent and/or legal guardian consent was obtained on behalf of these participants. Please note that proof of consent may be requested by the Editor at any time.

Response: There was only one study participant aged 17 years old and accordingly her parents was asked for consent and proof of consent may be provided if requested.
2. If two authors have the same initials, please distinguish between them by designating them with numbers 1 and 2. For example: MT1 and MT2. MT1 would correspond to the author furthest up on the author list.

Response: Comments has been included and distinction has been made as indicated by the editor

3. In accordance with BMC submission guidelines, please ensure that all figures are uploaded as separate, individual files in the file inventory. Additionally, we kindly ask that you remove the titles and legends from these files. Figure titles and legends should be located in their own section labeled “Figure titles and legends” which is to be located directly after the References section.

For each figure, the following information should be provided:

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Response: comment has been included in the manuscript as indicated by the editor; figure separately uploaded and labelled accordingly after reference section and the aforementioned information has been provided as indicated by the editor.

4. Please ensure that all tables are referenced within the text before the tables are shown.

Response: all the tables are referenced within the text as indicated by the editor.

5. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response: Comments has been included as indicated by the editor, figures and additional files uploaded separately.