Supplemental Table 1. PRRSV genomic copies (log least square mean ± standard error) per reaction in Experiments 1 and 2 showing main treatment effects and their significance. In Experiment 1, blood samples were spiked with PRRSV isolate H2 at a titre of 0.4×10^3 to 0.4×10^1 TCID50/ml and used to produce different sample types (serum or blood collected via wet or dry polyester or cotton swabs or FTA® cards) at different storage temperatures (4°C or 20°C) and times (24 h, 72 h or 7 d) prior to RNA extraction. In Experiment 2, blood samples from naturally infected pigs were used to produce the sample types described for Experiment 1. A sample with a cycle threshold (ct) equal or greater than 37 was considered negative.

Variable	Experiment 1	Experiment 2
Sample type	**p < 0.0001**	**p < 0.0001**
Serum	$2.63 \pm 0.04^{A,1}$	2.06 ± 0.30^{A}
Polyester wet swab	1.71 ± 0.05^{B}	0.47 ± 0.20^{B}
Cotton wet swab	1.51 ± 0.05^{C}	0.20 ± 0.20^{B}
Polyester dry swab	1.28 ± 0.05^{D}	0.61 ± 0.20^{B}
Cotton dry swab	0.93 ± 0.05^{E}	0.00 ± 0.20^{B}
FTA® cards	0.98 ± 0.05^{E}	0.07 ± 0.30^{B}
Swab type (tip material)	**p < 0.0001**	**p = 0.04**
Polyester	1.47 ± 0.05^{A}	1.54 ± 0.17^{A}
Cotton	1.22 ± 0.04^{B}	1.10 ± 0.17^{B}
Swab medium (dry or wet)	**p < 0.0001**	p = 0.89
Wet	1.62 ± 0.05^{A}	0.33 ± 0.17^{A}
Dry	1.07 ± 0.05^{B}	0.30 ± 0.17^{A}
Temperature	**p < 0.0001**	p = 0.47
4°C	1.60 ± 0.03^{A}	0.64 ± 0.17^{A}
20°C	1.41 ± 0.03^{B}	0.50 ± 0.12^{A}
Time	**p = 0.0001**	p = 0.30
24 h	1.51 ± 0.04^{B}	0.53 ± 0.18^{A}
72 h	1.75 ± 0.04^{A}	0.76 ± 0.18^{A}
7 d	1.27 ± 0.05^{C}	0.41 ± 0.15^{A}

PRRSV titre ($TCID_{50}$/ml)	**p < 0.0001**	Not done
1×10^1	0.38 ± 0.04^C	Not done
1×10^2	1.51 ± 0.04^B	Not done
1×10^3	2.64 ± 0.04^A	Not done

[1] Different superscripts (^{A,B,C,D,E}) within a row indicate significant differences in mean PRRSV genomic copies for a sample type.