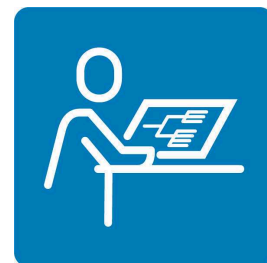


Jan 09, 2026

Version 1

Quality control assessment for microbial genomes: GalaxyTrakr MicroRunQC workflow V.1

 Forked from [Quality control assessment for microbial genomes: GalaxyTrakr MicroRunQC workflow](#)



DOI

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.261ge138dv47/v1>

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GenomeTrakr

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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

Created: January 08, 2026

Last Modified: January 09, 2026

Protocol Integer ID: 238254

Keywords: WGS, Quality Control, GalaxyTrakr, GenomeTrakr, microbial pathogen surveillance, galaxytrakr microrunqc workflow, galaxytrakr microrunqc workflow purpose, quick access to genometrakr sequence quality threshold, wgs sequence quality for bacterial pathogen, quality control assessment for microbial genome, genometrakr sequence quality threshold, check against genometrakr qc, microrunqc workflow, microrunqc, genometrakr qc, microbial genome, checking wgs sequence quality, quality assessments for raw read, genometrakr, microbial pathogen, galaxytrakr, most microbial pathogen, bacterial pathogen, sequence type for each isolate, sequence type definition file, de novo assembly, available in sequence type definition file, end fastq file, pathogen, galaxytrakr account, raw read, cronobacter threshold, account in galaxytrakr, custom galaxy instance, mlst method, quality control assessment, assembly qc, added enterobacter qc, additional mlst data field, galaxytrakr upgrade, nextseq, entire miseq, miseq

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Abstract

PURPOSE: Step-by-step instructions for checking WGS sequence quality for bacterial pathogens. The MicroRunQC workflow, implemented in a custom Galaxy instance, will produce quality assessments for raw reads (Illumina paired-end fastq files) and draft de novo assemblies, along with reporting the sequence type for each isolate. This workflow will work on most microbial pathogens, so we advise laboratories to upload their entire MiSeq/NextSeq run through this workflow.

SCOPE: This protocol covers the following tasks:

1. Quick access to GenomeTrakr sequence quality thresholds by organism
2. Create a GalaxyTrakr account
3. Set up an account in GalaxyTrakr
4. Create a new history/workspace
5. Upload data
6. Execute the MicroRunQC workflow
7. Interpret the results - check against GenomeTrakr QC thresholds

Version updates:

V7: Edits to incorporate GalaxyTrakr upgrades and new interface.

V6: Minor edits, including section reorganization and addition of clarifying notes

V5: New column in the output table to capture additional mlst data fields when available in Sequence Type definition files (not available for all species)

V4: MicroRunQC updated to V1.1 Includes updates to skeza and mlst methods, as well as adjusted assembly QC thresholds for E.coli. Added *Enterobacter* QC thresholds to threshold table.

V3: updated with *Cronobacter* thresholds

Quick Access to QC Benchmarks

- 1 This protocol will walk the user through various aspects of the quality assessment of bacterial genome sequences, from setting up a GalaxyTrakr account to the quality control (QC) benchmarks GenomeTrakr uses for its sequencing efforts. For quick access, GenomeTrakr QC benchmarks are included in the table below.

These are also relevant for NARMS and VetLIRN contributors.

*MicroRunQC users should follow QC threshold guidelines established by their respective surveillance coordinating body(s).

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Quality metric		<i>Salmonella</i>	<i>Listeria</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Shigella</i>	<i>Campylobacter</i>	<i>Vibrio para.</i>	<i>Cronobacter</i>	<i>Enterococcus faecium</i>	<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>
Average read quality Q score for R1 and R2		>=30	>=30	>=30	>=30	>=30	>=30	>=30	>=30	>=30
Average coverage		>=30X	>=20X	>=40X	>=40X	>=20X	>=40X	>=20X	>=50X	>=40X
De novo assembly: Seq. length (Mbp)		~4.3-5.2	~2.7-3.2	~4.5-5.9	~4.0-5.0	~1.5-1.9	~4.8-5.5	~4-5	~2.5-3.5	~2.5-3.25
De novo assembly: no. contigs		<=300	<=300	<=400	<=550	<=300	<=300	<=500	<=350	<=200

Account set up

- 2 1. Create a GalaxyTrakr account here: <https://account.galaxytrakr.org/Account/Register>



Note

This is a more detailed form than what is available by clicking "Register here" on the genometrakr.org main page. Please use the form linked here when creating a new account.

User Registration Form

Location

California Department of Public Health - Food and Drug Laboratory Branch

[Add New Location](#)

First Name

Enter First Name, Do not use characters: \[] : ; ' = + * ? < > @ .

Last Name

Enter First Name, Do not use characters: \[] : ; ' = + * ? < > @ .

Email

Email will be used for automated messages to include registration information!

Primary Phone

Please enter number with country code, without dashes, for example +17035456789

If possible please use a mobile number than can accept text messages, only used for support

Title

Requirements

Please annotate intended use of Galaxy and Analysis tools. List specific tools you would like to see deployed in Galaxy.

Register

2.1 Log into your GalaxyTrakr account: <https://galaxytrakr.org>

GalaxyTrakr

Workflow Visualize Shared Data Help Login or Register

Using 0 bytes

Welcome to Galaxy, please log in

Public Name or Email Address

Password

Forgot password? Click here to reset your password.

Login

Don't have an account? Register here.

Welcome to GalaxyTrakr: open-source bioinformatics for public health.

This site is intended for use by GenomeTrakr laboratories and their collaborators to assist in the analysis of genomic data for foodborne pathogens. This instance of Galaxy is hosted in a public environment and no personally identifiable (PII) or commercial confidential information should be uploaded.

--!!--Information and Announcements--!!--

Please let us know if you have any issues with the new version of Galaxy. Thank you.

Access CFSAN SNP Pipeline workflows in the shared workflows screen.

Post in the official Galaxy GenomeTrakr board on the Redmine Site: Click here

Click here to access the GalaxyTrakr User Guide

Click here to access the GalaxyTrakr FAQ Document

Create a new history

3 Create a new history.

We recommend creating a new history for each new MiSeq Run and including the flow-cell ID and date in the history name.

Save your MicroRunQC output here and any other relevant analyses, like serotyping, or AMR detection.

After all the analysis output from this run is saved to your internal data network or computer, older histories should be purged/deleted so as not to occupy the limited storage space in your account. In some cases it may be useful to save, for a limited time, multiple histories or to run analyses concurrently in multiple histories. In these cases you need to pay attention to your % usage bar (shows % used of allocated storage space) in the upper right corner of the GalaxyTrakr page. If you need additional space you can contact galaxytrakrsupport@fda.hhs.gov and request additional storage.

3.1 Click on the + icon in the upper right History panel



3.2 Name your new History by clicking on the "Unnamed history" text, type in desired name, and hit Enter. We recommend including the run cell ID and the date the run was started.



History

search datasets

⌵

✕

Unnamed history

Name

Annotation (optional)

Add Tags

Save

Cancel

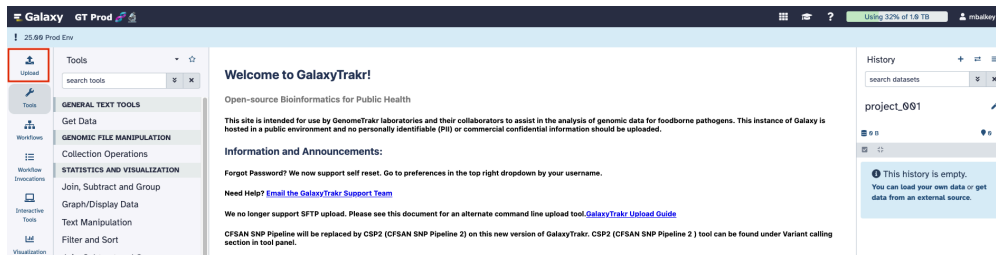
0 B

☒

This history is empty.
You can load your own data or get data from an external source.

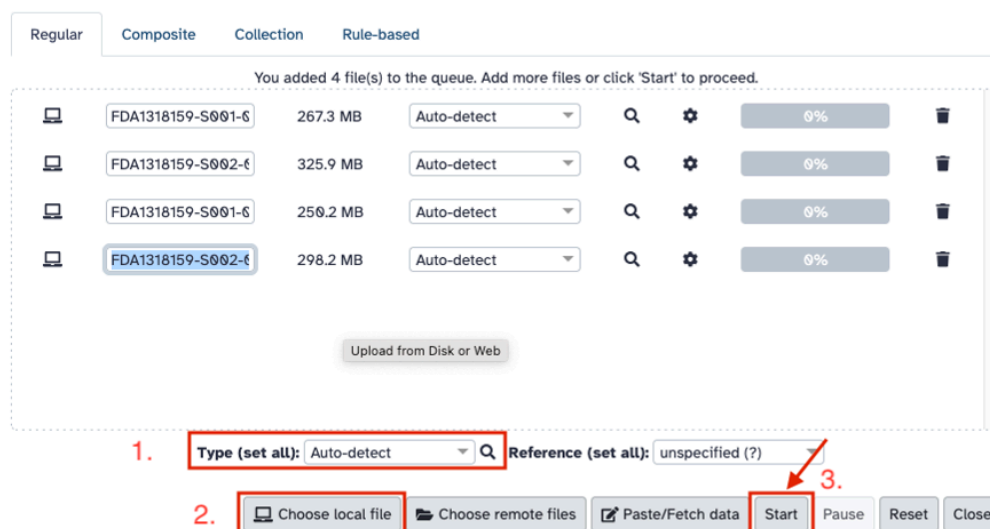
Upload data

- 4 **This section will describe the process for uploading raw fastq files into your active History panel.** After the files have been uploaded they will stay in your account until they are deleted.
- 4.1 Click on the Upload icon in the GalaxyTrakr menu to start an upload process.



- 4.2 Select "**Type (set all):auto-detect.**" Click "**Choose local files**" button and navigate to the desired fastq files, then click "**Start**" to upload files. These files should be paired (two per sample/isolate).

Upload from Disk or Web to **project_001**



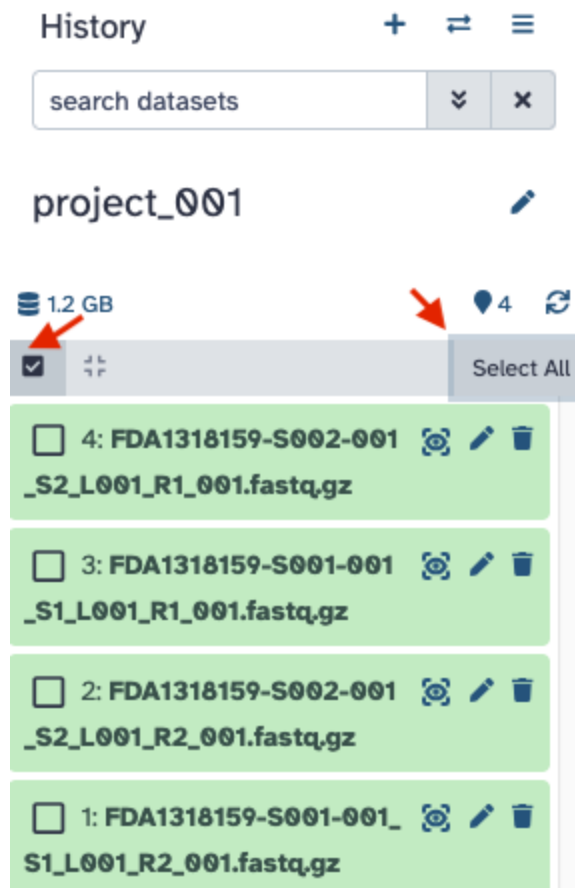
As the file uploads complete, each row will turn green. Samples in yellow are still in process.

- 4.3 You have just upload a set of forward and reverse reads. For further analysis, these files need to be paired properly so the platform knows which R1 and R2 files go together.



GalaxyTrakr does this by creating a **List of Dataset Pairs**.

Within your newly created History panel, click the check mark box, then select all the files you just uploaded.



Screenshot of History panel showing recently uploaded files. Note the way the files are named, using R1 and R2 to identify the paired reads. This will be important in the next step. Some naming conventions can be slightly different.

- 4.4 Click "Select All" and choose "Advance Build List", select "List of Paired Datasets"

4.5 A new window will open to help you pair the fastq files properly. By default _R1 and _R2 are the selected options to pair fastq files. Note how your paired reads are named.

Click on the filter icon if "_R1","_R2" have to be replaced by other suffix.

Click **Next**, double check the name of the datasets. If the names are accurate, name the List of Paired Datasets and click **Build**.

The screenshot shows the Galaxy Builder interface. At the top, there's a progress bar with three steps: 'What are you building?' (checked), 'Auto Pairing' (checked), and 'Builder' (active). Below the progress bar, the text says 'Assemble, label, and sort your list of pairs.' and 'This interface allows you to build a new Galaxy list of pairs. List of pairs are an ordered list of individual datasets paired together in their own paired collection (often forward and reverse reads).' A red box highlights a table titled 'Auto-matched 2 pair(s) of datasets from target datasets. If this isn't correct, configure auto-pairing.'

Dataset(s)	List Identifier	Discard	Status
FORWARD 4: FDA1318159-S002-001_S2_L00 REVERSE 2: FDA1318159-S002-001_S2_L00	FDA1318159-S002-001_S2_L00_001	✗	✓
FORWARD 3: FDA1318159-S001-001_S1_L00 REVERSE 1: FDA1318159-S001-001_S1_L00	FDA1318159-S001-001_S1_L00_001	✗	✓

Below the table, there are checkboxes for 'Remove file extensions?' and 'Hide original elements', and a text input field for 'Name: project_001'. At the bottom right, there is a 'Build' button highlighted with a red box.

On the right side, there is a 'History' panel showing a search bar and a list of datasets for 'project_001'. The list includes four items, each with a checkbox, a list icon, a share icon, and a delete icon. The first item is '4: FDA1318159-S002-001_S2_L00_001.fastq.gz', the second is '3: FDA1318159-S001-001_S1_L00_001.fastq.gz', the third is '2: FDA1318159-S002-001_S2_L00_001.fastq.gz', and the fourth is '1: FDA1318159-S001-001_S1_L00_001.fastq.gz'.

- 4.6 This List of Paired Datasets will be available for analysis in your history panel. You can run multiple analyses on the same dataset rather than upload the same sequence data to a new history to perform additional analyses. This will help you use your allocated storage space efficiently.

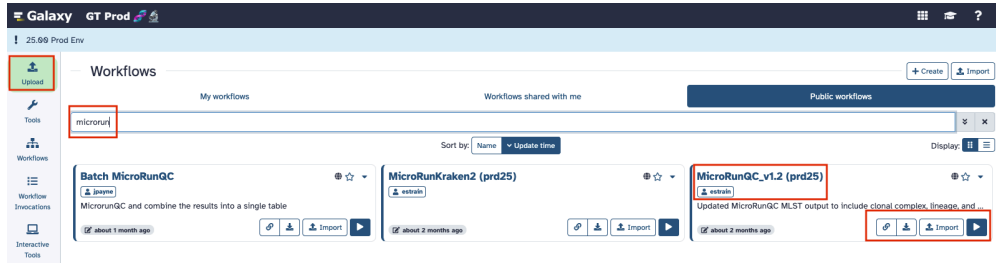
The screenshot shows the Galaxy History panel. At the top, there's a 'History' header with a search bar labeled 'search datasets'. Below the search bar, the text 'project_001' is displayed with a pencil icon. Below this, there's a summary bar showing '1.2 GB', '1' location, '8' shares, and a refresh icon. Below the summary bar, there's a list of items. The first item is '9: project_001' with a pencil icon and a delete icon. Below this item, it says 'a list with 2 fastqsanger.gz pairs'.



Run the MicroRunQC workflow

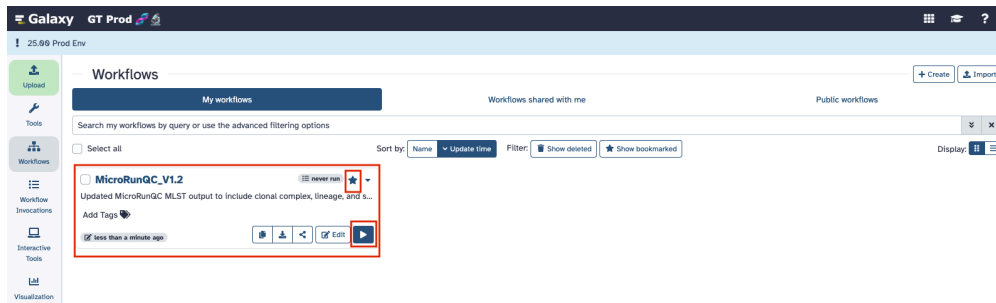
- 5 Add the MicroRunQC workflow to your own **"Workflows"** panel. You only have to do this step once for each new workflow you need.
- 5.1 Navigate to the **"Workflow"** tab on the main menu, click **"Public workflows"**, and search for "MicroRunQC_v1.2."

Click **"Import"** to select MicroRunQC.

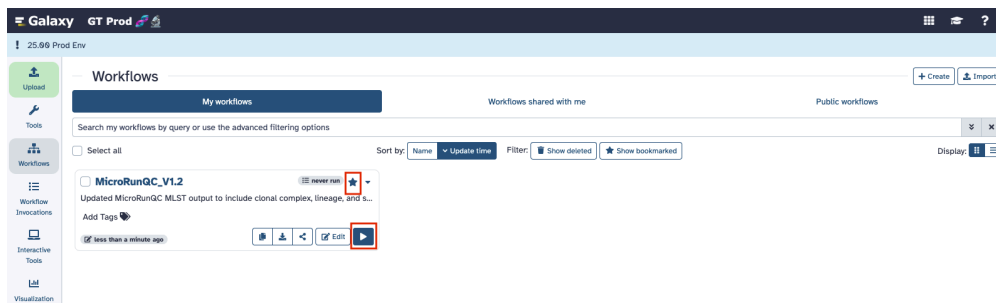


5.2 To see the new imported workflow, click the **"Workflow"** tab on the main menu, click "My Workflows."

Click the star to bookmark this workflow.

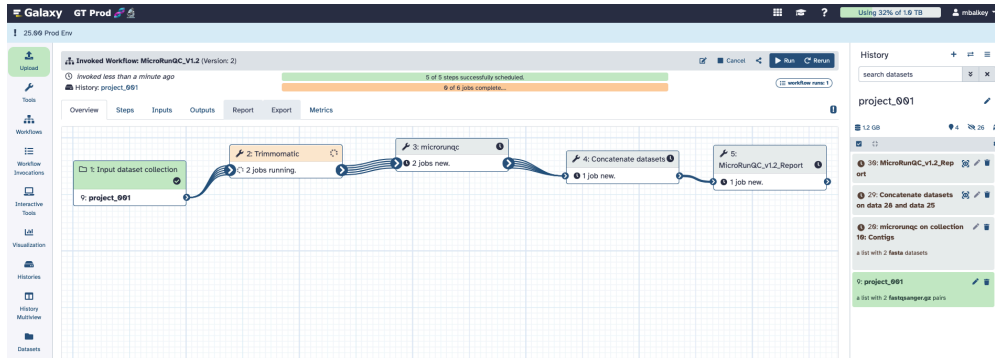


5.3 Click the play icon to run the **MicroRunQC_v1.2** and select the dataset collection that was created earlier.



5.4

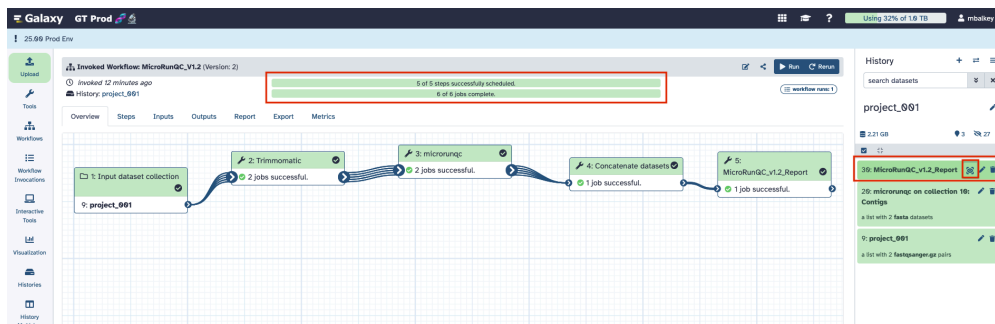
Click **Run Workflow**. This can take some time depending on the number of samples you are analyzing. If you choose to you can log out of GalaxyTrakr and log back in at a later time to see if the job is completed.



5.5

Upon completion of the pipeline all tiles in the History pane will be green and each of the steps in the pipeline will show "completed".

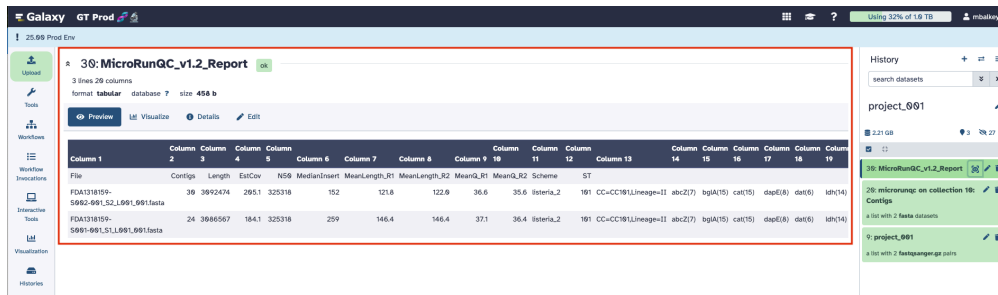
In the **"MicroRunQC_v1.2_Report"** tile, click on the "Eye" icon to view the output table in the GalaxyTrakr window.



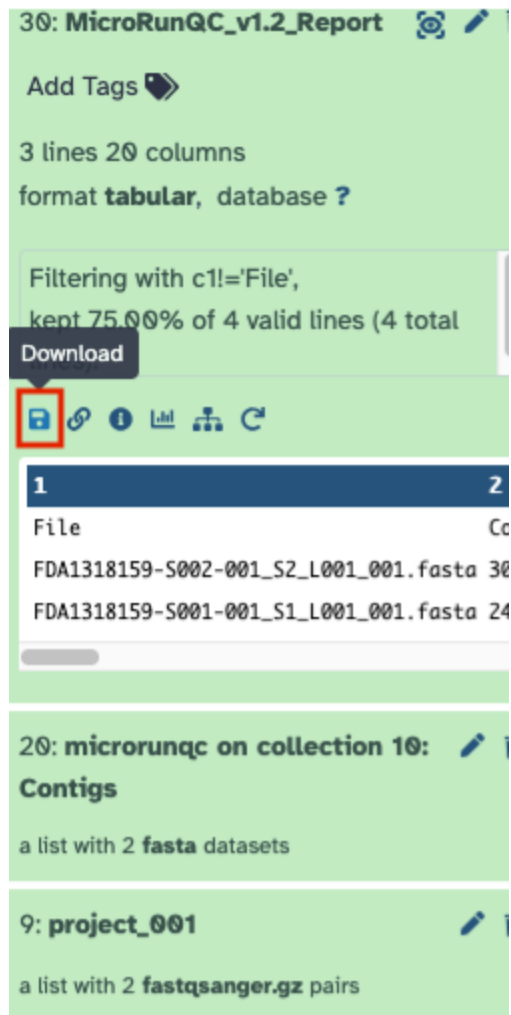
Interpret the results

6 Download and interpret the results:

- 6.1 Click **MicroRunQC_v1.2_Report** and then the floppy disc icon. The tabular file can be opened in a text reader or converted to a format (.txt) that can be opened in Excel.



Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7	Column 8	Column 9	Column 10	Column 11	Column 12	Column 13	Column 14	Column 15	Column 16	Column 17	Column 18	Column 19
File	Contigs	Length	EstCov	N50	MedianInsert	MeanLength_R1	MeanLength_R2	MeanQ_R1	MeanQ_R2	Scheme	ST							
FDA1318159-5682-661_52_L661_661.fasta	39	3892474	295.1	325318	152	121.8	122.9	36.6	35.6	1steria_2	191	CC=CCW1Lineage=1	abc2(7)	bgA(15)	cat(15)	dnp(8)	dat(6)	ldh(14)
FDA1318159-5682-661_52_L661_661.fasta	24	3886567	184.1	325318	259	146.4	146.4	37.1	36.4	1steria_2	191	CC=CCW1Lineage=1	abc2(7)	bgA(15)	cat(15)	dnp(8)	dat(6)	ldh(14)



6.2 The MicroRunQC output file includes the following columns:

	A	B	C
	Parameter	Input	Description
	Contigs	Assembly	Number of contigs in the de-novo SKESA assembly. Contigs smaller than 200 base-pairs (bp) are not counted.
	Length	Assembly	Total length of all contigs > 200bp. This should approximate the size of the genome for the target organism.
	EstCov	Assembly	Mean coverage for contigs in the SKESA assembly.

A	B	C
N50	Assembly	Sequence length of the shortest contig at 50% of the total genome length
MedianInsert	Read	Distance between forward and reverse reads. Calculated by mapping reads to SKESA assembly using bwa.
MeanLength_R1	Read	Mean length of forward read
MeanLength_R2	Read	Mean length of reverse read
MeanQ_R1	Read	Mean Q-score of forward read
MeanQ_R2	Read	Mean Q-score of reverse read
Scheme	Assembly	PubMLST scheme name (output from mlst application that scans contig files against traditional PubMLST typing schemes).
ST	Assembly	Sequence Type
MLST extra	Assembly	e.g. <i>Listeria</i> clonal complex info
Loci	Assembly	gene (allele number) – for example aroC(118)

MicroRunQC output table headers. This table lists the summary metrics for sequence quality, number of contigs, and estimated genome size, along with other common metrics for reads (Median Insert Size and Mean Length) and assemblies (N50). Additionally, if the Multi-Locus Sequence Type (MLST) for the isolate is available from pubmlst, the workflow also reports Sequence Type (ST) and the associated alleles.

***MLST extra:** Additional data fields reported when available in Sequence Type definition files (not available for all species)

1. clonal_complex – sequences grouped by similarity to central allelic profile (e.g., *Campylobacter* ST-21 complex)
2. CC – clonal_complex – Abbreviation used for organism like *Listeria*, ST profiles are maintained by different groups
3. Lineage – *Listeria monocytogenes* lineage (I,II,III, and IV), *Listeria* species also reported here (e.g. *L. innocua*)
4. species – e.g., *Vibrio alginolyticus*

**This output should be saved either to your LIMS or to a spreadsheet linked to the sequencing run and samples.

6.3 Example output for 1 *Salmonella* and 5 *Listeria* isolates.

A	B
Srain ID	Lab Confirmation
FDA1216271-C001-001	Listeria mono
FDA817806-S073-001	Listeria mono
FDA746634	Listeria mono
FDA1213377-C001-002	Listeria grayi
FDA933376-S060-005	Listeria innocua
FDA1213835-C001-001	Salmonella

Lab confirmed IDs for 6 isolates

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
	File	Contigs	Length	Est Cov	N50	Median Insert	Mean Length $\bar{R}_1$	Mean Length $\bar{R}_2$	Mean Q $\bar{R}_1$	Mean Q $\bar{R}_2$	Scheme	ST	MLST extra							
	FDA1216271-C001-001	16	2911949	36.7	476210	321	148.4	148.4	36.4	34.6	Listeria $\bar{2}$	5	CC=CC5; Lineage=I	abcZ (2)	bgIA (1)	cat (11)	dapE (3)	dat (3)	ldh (1)	lhkA (7)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
	FDA817806-S073-001	20	3068354	179.6	525438	329	234.7	235.2	36.7	31.9	listeria ₂	321	CC=CC3 ²¹ Lin eage=I	abcZ(5)	bgIA(6)	cat(8)	dapE(62)	dat(6)	ldh(7)	lhkA(34)
	FDA746634	30	3052888	41.4	293947	320	148.4	148.4	36.5	36	listeria ₂	-		abcZ(2)	bgIA(1)	cat(11)	dapE(3)	dat(3)	ldh(1)	lhkA(~7)
	FDA1213377-C001-002	20	2672180	155.1	473181	270	147.3	147.3	37.2	36.1	-	-								
	FDA933376-S	9	2881869	213	1498790	303	232.1	232.2	37	36.2	listeria ₂	1489	CC=CC1489Lin	abcZ(250)	bgIA(21)	cat(83)	dapE(298)	dat(20)	ldh(458)	lhkA(216)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
	060-005												e a g e = L. i n n o c u a							
	F D A 1 2 1 3 8 3 5 - C 0 0 1 - 0 0 1	3 7	4 8 3 2 3 6 5	3 4 . 4	2 9 4 9 3 6	3 5 4	1 4 9	1 4 9	3 6. 6	3 5. 7	s e n t e r i c a - a c h t m a n 2	2 1 4		a r o C (1 4)	d n a N (7 2)	h e m D (2 1)	h i s D (1 2)	p u r E (6)	s u c A (1 9)	t h r A (1 5)

MicroRunQC example report showing mlst ST results for different *Listeria* species.

The mlst *Listeria* database includes multiple species, including *Listeria monocytogenes* and *L. innocua*. When available, the *Listeria* clonal complex (CC) or *L. monocytogenes* lineage is listed alongside the ST.

6.4 For quality control threshold guidelines for the GenomeTrakr surveillance network,

[go to step #1](#) These are also relevant for NARMS and VetLIRN contributors.

*MicroRunQC users should follow QC threshold guidelines established by their respective surveillance coordinating body(s).