

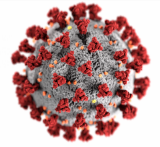
Apr 29, 2020

Version 1

SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing on Illumina MiSeq Using ARTIC Protocol: Part 1 - Tiling PCR V.1

 [Virus Evolution](#)

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DOI

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bfefjjbn>

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Protocol status: In development

We are still developing and optimizing this protocol. Comments and feedback appreciated.

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Abstract

This protocol is an adaption of several circulating protocols on SARS-CoV-2 sequencing using the ARTIC protocol. Its purpose is to simplify things for the average state public health laboratory, using equipment and expertise they currently possess, most likely from their funded PulseNet activities.

This protocol is derived from other works, including:

<https://www.protocols.io/view/ncov-2019-sequencing-protocol-bbmuik6w>

<https://www.protocols.io/view/ncov-2019-sequencing-protocol-v2-bdp7i5rn>



pcr-tiling-ncov-PTC_9096_v109_rev...



Materials

STEP MATERIALS

- ✕ DNA LoBind 1.5mL microcentrifuge tubes **Fisher Scientific Catalog #13-698-791**
- ✕ AMPure XP **Beckman Coulter Catalog #A63881**
- ✕ Random primer mix **New England Biolabs Catalog #S1330S**
- ✕ Deoxynucleotide Solution Mix - 8 umol of each **New England Biolabs Catalog #N0447S**
- ✕ SuperScript[®] IV Reverse Transcriptase **Thermo Fisher Catalog #18090010**
- ✕ DNA LoBind 1.5mL microcentrifuge tubes **Fisher Scientific Catalog #13-698-791**
- ✕ 96 well LoBind PCR plates Semi-skirted **Eppendorf Catalog #0030129504**
- ✕ RNaseOUT™ Recombinant Ribonuclease Inhibitor **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #10777019**
- ✕ Q5 Hot Start High-Fidelity 2X Master Mix - 100 rxns **New England Biolabs Catalog #M0494S**
- ✕ RT-PCR Grade Water **Thermo Fisher Catalog #AM9935**
- ✕ Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #Q32854**

Protocol materials

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ARTIC Protocol - Prepping Nucleic Acid

1 Getting RNA ready for cDNA Creation

In this section we cover the process of preparing your nucleic acid/RNA extractions, from your qPCR diagnostic test, to be used in viral sequencing. You will need to have Ct values for each of your specimens because this will determine your dilution factor prior to starting your cDNA preparation. Dilute your sample based on the chart below:

	qPCR Ct**	Dilution Factor
	18-35	none
	15-18	1:10
	12-15	1:100

Dilution factor guide

You can use the attached worksheet to help with sample organization:



Initial Sample Dilution Sheet.pdf



Initial Sample Dilution Sheet.xlsx

Note

****NOTE:** If you do not have Ct values from your diagnostic test, you can use the RNA extractions without dilution. An alternative approach that has been successful that helps with throughput is to use every samples undiluted, and only if it fails to sequence correctly go back and dilute. Some labs have been reporting that greater than 90% of their specimens will sequence fine undiluted.

ARTIC Protocol - cDNA Preparation - Reverse Transcription

2 cDNA/Reverse Transcription Section Date/Initials:_____

In this section we cover the process of taking your nucleic acid extraction from your qPCR diagnostic test and use it as starting material for the sequencing.

- 2.1 [] In a PCR hood, mix the following reagents and add to a 0.2 mL PCR tube on a cold block plus 11 µL of RNA sample:

Reagent	Volume (uL)	MM for N+2 samples
60 uM random hexamers and anchored polyT(23)	1.0	
10mM dNTPs	1.0	
Total	2.0	

Master mix calculations

Each reaction should have 13 µL when mixed. **If using master mix, it is recommended to add the 2 µL of the master mix to the PCR tube first, then add the 11 µL of RNA to help prevent contamination.**

⊗ Random primer mix **New England Biolabs Catalog #S1330S**

Lot# _____ Exp. Date _____

⊗ Deoxynucleotide Solution Mix - 8 umol of each **New England Biolabs Catalog #N0447S**

Lot# _____ Exp. Date _____

- 2.2 [] Mix gently, spin down, and return to On ice .

- 2.3 [] Preheat Thermocycler to 65 °C , with heated lid at 105 °C

- 2.4 [] Incubate the reaction at 65 °C for 00:05:00 , followed by an immediate snap-cool on On ice for at least 00:01:00 .

- 2.5 [] In a clean 1.5 mL LoBind tube (96 well plates can also be used) on On ice , mix together the following reagents:

Reagent	Volume (uL)	MM for N+2 samples
SuperScript IV RT 5X Buffer**	4.0	
100mM DTT**	1.0	
RNaseOUT RNase inhibitor	1.0	
Superscript IV Reverse Transcriptase**	1.0	
Total	7.0	

Master mix for RT reaction.

Note

****Note: All these reagents are part of the SuperScript IV Reverse Transcriptase kit.**



RNaseOUT™ Recombinant Ribonuclease Inhibitor **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #10777019**

Lot# _____ Exp. Date _____



SuperScript® IV Reverse Transcriptase **Thermo Fisher Catalog #18090010**

Lot# _____ Exp. Date _____



DNA LoBind 1.5mL microcentrifuge tubes **Fisher Scientific Catalog #13-698-791**



96 well LoBind PCR plates Semi-skirted **Eppendorf Catalog #0030129504**

2.6 [] After the RNA sample has cooled for at least  00:01:00 , longer if needed to make master mix, add  7 µL of the above master mix to the sample.

2.7 [] Mix gently by flicking, and spin down. Return tube to  On ice .

2.8 [] Preheat thermocycler to  42 °C , with heated lid at  105 °C



2.9 [] Incubate sample using the following COVID WGS Reverse Transcription program:

Step	Temp	Time	Cycle
Reverse Transcription	42 C	50:00	1
RT Inactivation	70 C	10:00	1
Cool	4 C	Hold	Hold

SARS-CoV-2 Reverse Transcription Program

ARTIC Protocol - Tiled PCR Section

3 **Tiled PCR Section** Date/Initials: _____

This section outlines the process for the tiled PCR approach from the ARTIC protocol. A separate document will be provided outlining how to order primers and make the two different primer pools needed for this section. Hopefully most first time labs will receive aliquots of both Pool A and Pool B from labs that have successfully completed this protocol before to help with any potential troubleshooting.

3.1 [] Set up two individual reactions using primer pool A and primer pool B in  0.2 mL PCR tubes according to the following table:

Reagent	Pool A (uL)	MM for N+2 samples	Pool B (uL)	MM for N+2 samples
Q5 Hot Start HiFi 2x MM	12.5		12.5	
Primer pool at 10uM (A or B)**	3.7		3.7	
Nuclease-free water	6.3		6.3	
Total	22.5		22.5	

Master Mix for Tiled PCR

**Note**

****See protocol on primer design for SARS-CoV-2. If this is your first attempt, it would be best to receive aliquots of the primers from a lab that has successfully sequenced SARS-CoV-2 first.**



Q5 Hot Start High-Fidelity 2X Master Mix - 100 rxns **New England Biolabs Catalog #M0494S**

Lot# _____ Exp. Date _____



RT-PCR Grade Water **Thermo Fisher Catalog #AM9935**

Lot# _____ Exp. Date _____

Note

Any PCR grade water will do in this step. Not necessary to use the reagent listed.

3.2 [] Add  2.5 μ L sample cDNA to each pool.

3.3 [] Mix gently and spin down prior to loading on the thermocycler.

3.4 [] Run the following thermocycler program:

	Step	Temp	Time	Cycles
	Initial Denaturation	98°C	0:30	1
	Denaturation	98°C	0:15	25 or 35*
	Anneal and Extension	65°C	5:00	25 or 35*



	Cool	4°C	Hold	Hold
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SARS-CoV-2 Tiled PCR - see note below.

Note

****Note: If starting RNA samples had a qPCR Ct value in the range of 12-21, use 25 cycles.**

If starting RNA samples had a qPCR Ct values in the range of 21-35, use 35 cycles. An alternative approach that has been successful that helps with throughput is to run every specimen undiluted and for 35 cycles, and only if it fails to sequence correctly go back and dilute and/or run for fewer cycles. Some labs have been reporting that greater than 90% of their specimens will sequence fine undiluted for 35 cycles.

ARTIC Protocol - Clean-Up and Size Selection

4 Section for Clean-Up and Size Selection Date/Initials: _____

This process is similar to the bead clean-ups performed for the PulseNet WGS protocol. The same beads and magnets may be used, although it is recommended to have separate beads to help prevent contamination.

- 4.1 [] Combine the  25 µL reaction from Pool A and the  25 µL reaction from Pool B into a new  1.5 mL LoBind tube. One tube per sample.

 DNA LoBind 1.5mL microcentrifuge tubes **Fisher Scientific Catalog #13-698-791**

- 4.2 [] Re-suspend AMPure XP beads by vortexing.

 AMPure XP **Beckman Coulter Catalog #A63881**

Lot# _____ Exp. Date _____

Note

The AMPure XP is available in  5 mL ,  60 mL , and  450 mL sizes. Please choose the appropriate size for your throughput.

- 4.3 [] Add  50 µL of re-suspended AMPure XP beads to the reaction and mix.



4.4 [] Incubate on a rotator mixer for 00:10:00 at Room temperature .

4.5 [] Prepare 500 μL [M] 80 % volume ethanol using the following calculation:

Sample# + 1: _____

0.5ml x Sample# = _____ mL total volume

mL total volume x 0.8 = _____ mL EtOH

Total volume _____ mL - _____ mL EtOH = _____ mL H₂O

4.6 [] Spin down sample and pellet the beads on a magnet** for approximately 00:05:00 . Keep tubes on the magnet** and pipette off supernatant.

Note

****Use the magnetic stands from your PulseNet protocols.**

4.7 [] While on the magnet, wash beads with 200 μL freshly prepared [M] 80 % volume EtOH without disturbing the pellet. Rotate the tube to allow the bead pellet to migrate towards the opposite side of the tube. Remove EtOH

4.8 [] Repeat previous step.

4.9 [] Spin down and place the tubes back on the magnet. Pipette off any residual ethanol and allow to dry for approximately 00:00:30 . Take care to not over dry the pellet.

4.10 [] Remove tubes from the magnet and re-suspend pellet in 30 μL of nuclease-free water**.

Note

****Use whatever nuclease free water was used in previous steps.**

- 4.11 [] Incubate at  Room temperature for approximately  00:02:00 .
- 4.12 [] Pellet the beads on a magnet until eluate is clear and colorless
- 4.13 [] Remove ~  30 μ L of eluate and place in a clean  1.5 mL LoBind tube.
- 4.14 [] Quantify eluted sample on Qubit fluorometer or similar instrument and store completed PCR amplified cDNA prep at  -20 $^{\circ}$ C .

Equipment

Qubit Fluorometer

NAME

Fluorometer

TYPE

Invitrogen

BRAND

Q33238

SKU

<https://www.thermofisher.com/order/catalog/product/Q33238#/Q33238>^{LINK}

 Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #Q32854**

Note

Earlier versions of the Qubit, or any other method for accurate DNA quantitation can be used. Most labs should have this equipment available in their NGS sections.



- 4.15 [] PCR amplified cDNA is now ready for Illumina library preparation. Please proceed to Part 2 for DNA Flex Library Preparation.

Note

NOTE: For those of you familiar with the PulseNet protocols for WGS of bacterial pathogens, you are at the equivalent stage where you have extracted your DNA from your colony and are ready to begin library preparation, usually with DNA Flex.