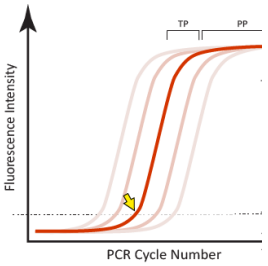
Feb 14, 2020 Version 4

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) real-time RT-PCR N gene 2020 (Wuhan-N; 2019-nCoV-related test) -**NOT RECOMMENDED** V.4



In 1 collection

DOI
https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bchwit7e

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DOI: https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bchwit7e

Protocol Citation: Judy A. Northill, Ian Mackay 2020. Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) real-time RT-PCR N gene 2020 (Wuhan-N; 2019-nCoV-related test) -NOT RECOMMENDED. **protocols.io** **https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bchwit7e**

Protocol status: Working
We use this protocol and it's working

Created: February 12, 2020

Last Modified: February 14, 2020

Protocol Integer ID: 33046

Keywords: CoV, coronavirus, Wuhan, Real-time, RT-PCR, PCR, virus, China, 2019-nCoV, pneumonia, seafood market, WSMPV, Sarbecovirus, SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus, sars virus, coronavirus disease, other related sarbecovirus, detecting wuhan virus, members of the subgenus sarbecovirus, subgenus sarbecovirus, clinical positive case of coronavirus disease, wuhan virus, sequence mn908947, sar, type virus, like sar, orf1ab assay, pcr, nucleocapsid

Abstract

- **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR SCREENING**
- The sensitivity of the assay has been found to be lower than expected and we no longer recommend it be used.
- We do recommend the ORF1ab assay (**Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) real-time RT-PCR ORF1ab 2020**) or the E gene assay by Corman *et al*. (**Protocol v2-1**)

- A real-time RT-PCR to designed to detect SARS-CoV-2 and other related sarbecoviruses. Based on sequence MN908947 made available by Professor Yong-Zhen Zhang, Fudan University, Shanghai, China.
- The target region encodes the nucleocapsid (N).
- Not tested on wild-type virus (as of 25Jan2020), it is expected to be capable of detecting Wuhan virus, bat-like SARS and SARS virus (members of the subgenus *Sarbecovirus*).
- Limit of detection not yet determined.
- A single 1 mismatch at probe-binding site identified with the *BetaCoV/USA/CA1/2020|EPI_ISL_406034* variant of SARS-CoV-2 (as of 29JAN2020).
- Probe is in the 3'-5' (reverse complement) direction.

Notes:

1. Assay is optimised (as of 24Jan2020).
2. This test has identified a clinical positive case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Guidelines

- If using a different brand or model of real-time thermocycler, check the concentration of ROX is adequate.
- Method assumes the user is familiar with the thermocycler and software used to run the protocol.

Materials

STEP MATERIALS

SuperScript™ III Platinum™ One-Step qRT-PCR Kit **Life Technologies** **Catalog #**11732088

Protocol materials

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Mix

1 **Oligonucleotides**

	Oligo Name	Sequence 5'-3'	Location based on NC_045512*
	Wuhan-TM2020For	TCGTGCTACAACTTCCTCAAG	28648-28668
	Wuhan-TM2020Probe	6FAM-CCGCCTCTGCTCCCTTCTGC-BHQ1	28714-28695
	Wuhan-TM2020Rev	CTGCCWGGAGTTGAATTTCTTG	28780-28759

*GenBank accession NC_045512 Wuhan seafood market pneumonia virus isolate Wuhan-Hu-1

2 **Reagents**

SuperScript™ III Platinum™ One-Step qRT-PCR Kit **Life Technologies Catalog #**11732088

3 **Synthetic controls**

Synthetic controls are produced using the **binary synthetic template oligonucleotide positive control for in-house diagnostic real-time RT-PCR method.**

The oligonucleotide sequences required to make controls for this assay are:
Probe control:
AAAATAATACGACTCACTATAGGGTGAAGAGAATCCACAAGGAATTGAACCGCCTCTGCTC
CCTTCTGCACAGTGTTCAGCAGGTCCTGTTGAAAA

Primer control:
AAAATAATACGACTCACTATAGGGTCGTGCTACAACTTCCTCAAGATGATCTGGCACGGGAC
CCTCCAACAAGAAATTCAACTCCAGGCAGAAAA

4 **Reaction Set-up**

- Assay has been designed to be used on both a Rotor-Gene 6000 / Rotor-Gene Q 5-plex using 100-place rotor discs and an ABI 7500 Fast real-time machine.
- Total reaction volume is 20µL.
- Prepare sufficient for number of reaction plus a 'dead volume' usually 2 extra. Adjust as necessary if using a robotic dispenser.

	Reagent	Volume (ul) X1	Final reaction concentration
	Nuclease free water	4.41	
	Wuhan-TM2020F (200uM)	0.05	500nM
	Wuhan-TM2020R (200uM)	0.09	900nM
	Wuhan-TM2020Probe (100uM)	0.01	50nM
	2 X Reaction mix*	10	1X
	Superscript III/Platinum Taq enzyme mix*	0.4	
	ROX reference dye (25uM)*	0.04	50nM
	TOTAL VOLUME	**15**	

*Superscript®III Platinum® One-Step qRT-PCR kit

Dispense 15µl to each reaction well.
Add 5µl of template, extracted RNA, controls or NTC (nuclease-free water).
Total reaction volume is 20µl.

Amplification

5 **PCR amplification**

	1 cycle	40 cycles
	50° C	95° C 3

	5min	seconds
	95° C 2min	60° C 30 seconds*

*Florescence acquisition step

Result Analysis

6 The definition used for a satisfactory positive result from a real-time fluorogenic PCR should include each of the following:

1. A sigmoidal curve – the trace travels horizontally, curves upward, continues in an exponential rise and followed by a curve towards a horizontal plateau phase
2. A suitable level of fluorescence intensity as measured in comparison to a positive control (y-axis)
3. A defined threshold (C_T) value which the fluorescent curve has clearly exceeded (Fig.1 arrow) and which sits early in the log-linear phase and is <40 cycles
4. A flat or non-sigmoidal curve or a curve that crosses the threshold with a C_T value >40 cycles is considered a negative result
5. NTCs should not produce a curve

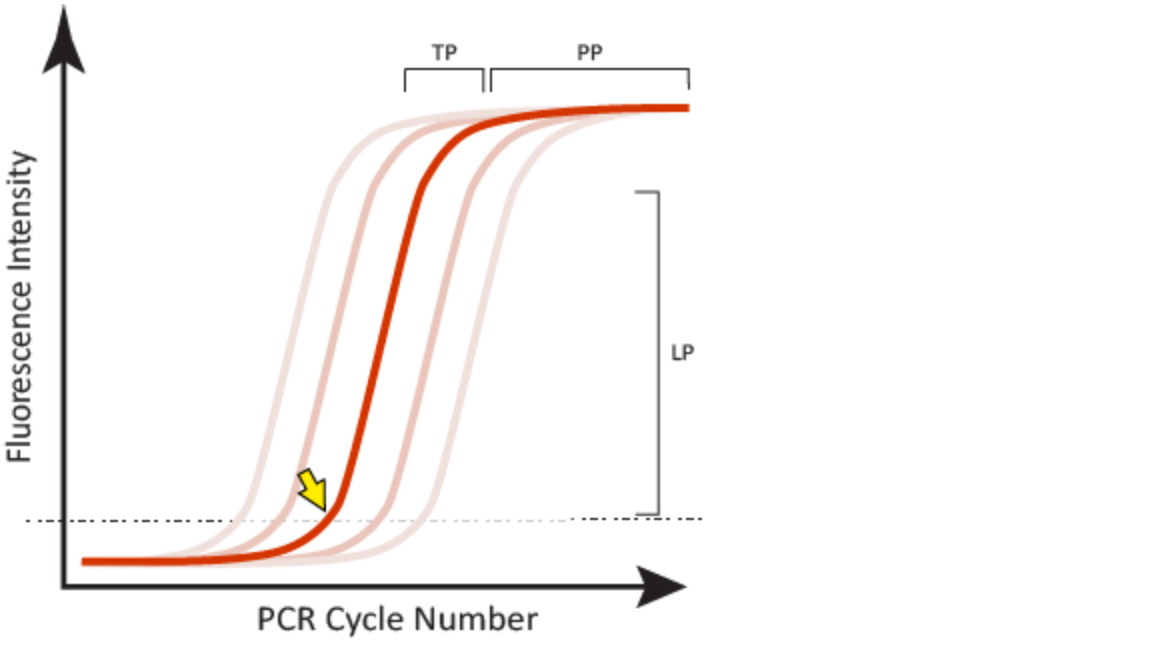

Figure 1. Examples of satisfactory sigmoidal amplification curve shape when considering an assay's fluorescent signal output. The crossing point or threshold cycle (C_T) is indicated (yellow arrow); it is the value at which fluorescence levels surpass a

predefined (usually set during validation, or arbitrary) threshold level as shown in this normalized linear scale depiction. LP-log-linear phase of signal generated during the exponential part of the PCR amplification; TP-a slowing of the amplification and accompanying fluorescence signal marks the transition phase; PP-the plateau phase is reached when there is little or no increase in fluorescent signal despite continued cycling.