

COVID-19/Influenza (A & B) TaqMan RT-PCR Kit Product# TM67400

Product Insert

Intended Use

Norgen's COVID-19/Influenza (A & B) TaqMan RT-PCR Kit is a multiplexed assay designed for the qualitative detection of SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A and Influenza B specific RNA using TaqMan® technology (FAM, HEX/VIC, Cy5 and TEX615) in a single one-step RT-PCR reaction. The assay can be used on RNA isolated from nasopharyngeal swabs, oropharyngeal swabs and saliva samples collected from individuals with clinical signs/symptoms related to SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza A and B infection. This kit is designed for research use only and not for use in diagnostic procedures.

Background Information

Human influenza virus infection is a major public health problem worldwide and causes seasonal epidemics of disease. Human influenza viruses are classified as either type A, B or C based on differences in their nucleoproteins and matrix proteins. Type A and B viruses are more virulent human pathogens among the three human influenza viruses and cause more severe disease. The different types can be further classified into subtypes based on antigenic differences in two surface glycoproteins, hemagglutinin and neuraminidase. All known subtypes of influenza A can be found in birds (H1-H16; N1-N9) or bats (H17 and H18; N10 and N11), while a limited number of the subtypes have been found in humans (H1-H3, H5, H7, and H10; N1, N2, N8, and N9). Influenza B has two lineages (Victoria and Yamagata) that are differentiated by hemagglutinin.

Influenza A and B are known to co-circulate, however a novel coronavirus has also been found to co-infect with Influenza A and B. In December 2019, an outbreak of respiratory illness started in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and has now spread throughout the world to many different countries. The World Health Organization has designated the official name of the disease as COVID-19 and the etiological agent as SARS-CoV-2. While SARS-CoV-2 is new, many coronaviruses have been known to infect animals and humans for some time. Coronaviruses are classified as alpha, beta, gamma, and delta coronaviruses. Coronaviruses are known to commonly infect camels, cattle, cats, and bats. In humans, coronavirus infections can cause various illnesses from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), or COVID-19.

Influenza A, Influenza B, and SARS-CoV-2 all cause severe disease. Infections may not manifest with any symptoms or may manifest as mild to severe symptoms. In order to help reduce the risk of further epidemics or pandemics, there is a need for rapid, sensitive, and specific diagnostic assays for the detection of these three agents from the same sample.

Product Description

Norgen's COVID-19/Influenza (A & B) TaqMan RT-PCR Kit includes 2X One-Step RT-PCR Master Mix, a primer/probe mix, a positive control and a negative control (nuclease-free water). The primer/probe mix contains SARS-CoV-2 detection target; N (Nucleoprotein), Influenza A detection target; M gene and Influenza B detection target; HA (Hemagglutinin) and the human RNase P transcript as an internal control target to monitor for PCR inhibition, and to validate the quality of the sample and the detection result. The provided N/Inf A & B/RP Positive Control contains an *in vitro* RNA transcript for the two SARS-related target genes: N gene, ORF1ab gene as well as the human RP gene (internal control).

Norgen's COVID-19/Influenza (A & B) TaqMan RT-PCR Kit was developed and validated to be used with the following PCR instruments:

- Qiagen Rotor-Gene Q, BioRad CFX96 Touch™ Real-Time PCR Detection System, ABI 7500, ABI Quantstudio™ 5 and 7.

Kit Components

Component	Product # TM67400 (500 reactions)
N/Inf A & B/RP Primer & Probe Mix	1 x 850 µL
N/Inf A & B/RP Positive Control †	1 x 500 µL
2X One-Step RT-PCR Master Mix	9 x 1 mL
Nuclease-Free Water (Negative control)	2 x 1.25 mL
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† Contains an *in vitro* RNA transcript for the SARS-CoV-2 N gene, Influenza M and HA genes and RNase P RNA fragments.

Storage Conditions and Product Stability

- All kit components should be stored at -20°C upon arrival
- Repeated thawing and freezing (> 3x) of the Master Mix and Positive Control should be avoided, as this may affect the performance of the assay. If the reagents are to be used only intermittently, they should be frozen in aliquots.
- All reagents can be stored for 6 months at -20°C without showing any reduction in performance.

Customer-Supplied Reagents and Equipment

- Appropriate Real-Time PCR Instrument with FAM, HEX/VIC, Cy5 and TEX615 filter channel.
- RNA Purification Kit
 - The kit is compatible with all RNA purification kits that yield high quality, inhibitor-free RNA
 - **Recommended Purification Kit:** Norgen's Saliva/Swab RNA Purification Kit (Cat. 69100)
- Disposable powder-free gloves
- Benchtop microcentrifuge
- Micropipettors
- Sterile pipette tips with filters
- PCR tubes
- Vortex mixer
- PCR reaction preparation station

Quality Control

In accordance with Norgen's ISO 9001 and ISO 13485-certified Quality Management System, each lot of Norgen's COVID-19/Influenza (A&B) TaqMan RT-PCR Kit is tested against predetermined specifications to ensure consistent product quality.

Disclaimer

Norgen Biotek is offering the COVID-19/Influenza (A & B) TaqMan RT-PCR Kit based on the sequences that were published by https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/method-niid-20200123-2.pdf?sfvrsn=fbf75320_7. These products are for research use only, not for *in vitro* diagnostic use.

Warnings and Precautions

- Norgen's COVID-19/Influenza (A & B) TaqMan RT-PCR Kit is intended for research purposes only. It is not intended for diagnostic use.
- Follow universal precautions. All specimens should be considered as potentially infectious and handled accordingly.

- Ensure that a suitable lab coat, disposable gloves and protective goggles are worn when handling specimens and kit reagents.
- Use sterile pipette tips with filters. Use proper pipetting techniques and maintain the same pipetting pattern throughout the procedure to ensure optimal and reproducible values.
- As contamination of specimens or reagents can produce erroneous results, it is essential to use aseptic techniques. Pipette and handle reagents carefully to avoid mixing of the samples.
- Do not use supplies and equipment across the dedicated areas of i) specimen extraction, ii) reaction set-up and iii) amplification/detection. No cross-movement should be allowed between the different areas. Personal protective equipment, such as laboratory coats and disposable gloves, should be area specific.
- Store and extract positive material (specimens, controls and amplicons) separately from all other reagents and add it to the reaction mix in a spatially separated facility.
- Dispose of unused kit reagents and specimens according to local, provincial or federal regulations.
- Do not substitute or mix reagents from different kit lots or from other manufacturers. Do not use components of the kit that have been stored for more than 6 months.
- The presence of RT-PCR inhibitors may cause false negative or invalid results.
- Potential mutations within the target regions of the SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza A or B genome covered by the primers in this kit may result in failure to detect the presence of the pathogen.
- Good laboratory practice is essential for the proper performance of this kit. Ensure that the purity of the kit and reactions is maintained at all times, and closely monitor all reagents for contamination. Do not use any reagents that appear to be contaminated.
- Ensure that appropriate specimen collection, transport, storage and processing techniques are followed for optimal performance of this test.

Instructions for Use

A. Sample Preparation

Purified RNA is the starting material for Norgen's COVID-19/Influenza (A & B) TaqMan RT-PCR Kit. The quality of the RNA template will have a major impact on the performance of the SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A and B detection test. The user must ensure that the method used for RNA purification is compatible with TaqMan One-Step RT-PCR. We recommend the use of Norgen's **Saliva/Swab RNA Purification Kit (Cat. 69100)**.

B. TaqMan RT-PCR Assay Preparation

Notes:

- Before use, suitable amounts of all TaqMan RT-PCR components should be completely thawed at room temperature, mixed by gentle vortexing or by pipetting, and centrifuged briefly.
- Work quickly on ice.
- The amount of 2X One-Step RT-PCR Master Mix provided is enough for up to 500 RT-PCR reactions per each target.
- For every TaqMan One-Step RT-PCR run, one reaction containing N/Inf A & B/RP Positive Control and one reaction as a no template control (NTC) must be included for proper interpretation of results. A minimum number of 10 samples are recommended to be tested per run per assay. Table 1 below shows an example for the samples and the controls set-up for each assay.

Table 1. Samples and Controls Set-up for One-step RT-PCR assay

Assay	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
N/Inf A & B/RP	NTC	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	Positive Control

- To avoid any contamination while preparing the TaqMan One-step RT-PCR assay, follow the order outlined in Tables 2, 3 and 4 below to prepare the NTC, Detection Assays and N/Inf A & B/RP Positive control:
 - Prepare the RT-PCR NTC (Table 2)
 - Prepare the RT-PCR N/Inf A & B/RP Assay (Table 3)
 - Prepare the RT-PCR N/Inf A & B/RP Positive Control (Table 4)
- To further avoid contamination, add the components to the PCR tubes in the order shown in the tables below (i.e: 1) Nuclease-free water; 2) Mastermix; 3) Primer & Probe Mix; and 4) the Sample RNA or Positive Control).

1. For each TaqMan One-step RT-PCR set, prepare no template control PCR reactions as shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2. TaqMan One-Step RT-PCR NTC Preparation

Reagent	Volume of Reagent Added per Reaction
Nuclease-Free Water	8.5 µL
2X One-Step RT-PCR Master Mix	15 µL
N/Inf A & B/RP Primer & Probe Mix	1.5 µL
Total Volume	25 µL

2. Prepare the RT-PCR reactions for sample detection as shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3. TaqMan One-Step RT-PCR Target Assays Preparation

Reagent	Vol. of Reagent Added per Reaction
Nuclease-Free Water	3.5 µL
2X One-Step RT-PCR Master Mix	15 µL
N/Inf A & B/RP Primer & Probe Mix	1.5 µL
Sample RNA*	5 µL
Total Volume	25 µL

*The recommended amount of sample RNA to be used is 5 µL. However, 1 µL - 8 µL of high quality RNA may be used as template. Adjust the final volume of the RT-PCR reaction to 25 µL using the Nuclease-Free Water provided in case the volume of the sample RNA used is different from the volume shown in Table 4.

3. For each RT-PCR set, prepare positive control RT-PCR as shown in Table 4 below:

Table 4. TaqMan One-Step RT-PCR N/Inf A & B/RP Positive Control Preparation

Reagent	Vol. of Reagent Added per Reaction
Nuclease-Free Water	3.5 µL
2X One-Step RT-PCR Master Mix	15 µL
N/Inf A & B/RP Primer & Probe Mix	1.5 µL
N/Inf A & B/RP Positive Control*	5 µL
Total Volume	25 µL

*The positive control contains the SARS-CoV-2 N gene, Influenza M and HA genes and RNase P RNA fragments.

C. COVID-19 TaqMan One-Step RT-PCR Assay Programming

1. Program the thermocycler according to the program shown in Table 5 below.
2. Select the following channels according to the machine being used as reported in Table 6 below.
2. Run one step RT-PCR.

Table 5. COVID-19 TaqMan One-Step RT-PCR Program

One Step RT-PCR Cycle	Step	Temperature	Duration
<i>Cycle 1</i>	Step 1	50°C	20 min
<i>Cycle 2</i>	Step 1	95°C	3 min
<i>Cycle 3 (45x)</i>	Step 1	95°C	15 sec
	Step 2	60°C	30 sec

Table 6. Channel selection for specified platforms.

N gene	Influenza A	Influenza B	RNaseP	Instrument
FAM	Texas 615 / *Texas Red	Cy5	HEX	BioRad CFX96 Touch™ Real-Time PCR Detection System,
FAM	JUN/ *ROX	Cy5	VIC	QuantStudio™
Green	Orange	Red	Yellow	Qiagen Rotor-Gene Q

*Note: When referencing two channels, use the first listed channel primarily, and if it not available on the model, use the second.

D. COVID-19 TaqMan One-Step RT-PCR Assay Interpretation

- The Negative Control (NTC – No Template Control) reaction(s) must be negative and not exhibit fluorescence growth curves that cross the threshold line. If there is any amplification with the NTC the run is not valid and no interpretation of SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A and B detection can be made. The assay must be repeated.
- The N/Inf A & B/RP Positive Control reaction(s) should produce a positive result with an expected Ct value (< 40.00 Ct) for each target. If the positive control does not provide a positive result the run is not valid and no interpretation of SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A and B detection can be made. The assay must be repeated.
- If the NTC and N/Inf A & B/RP Positive Control are exhibiting the correct results, the results of the detection assays can be interpreted as outlined in Tables 6 below.

Table 7. Interpretation of Assay Results

N (FAM)	Inf A (TEX615)	Inf B (Cy5)	RP (HEX)	Result
+	+	+	±	SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A and B Positive
+	-	-	±	SARS-CoV-2 Positive
-	+	-	±	Influenza A Positive
-	-	+	±	Influenza B Positive
+	+	-	±	SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza A Positive
+	-	+	±	SARS-CoV-2, and Influenza B Positive
-	+	+	±	Influenza A and B Positive
-	-	-	+	Negative
-	-	-	-	Inconclusive

Related Products	Product #
Total Nucleic Acid Preservation Tubes (50)	69200
Saliva RNA Collection and Preservation Devices	RU53800
Saliva/Swab RNA Purification Kit	69100
Saliva/Swab RNA Purification 96-Well Kit	69300
Total RNA Purification Kit	17200, 37500, 17250
2X One-Step RT-PCR Master Mix	28113, 28114, 28115

Technical Support

Contact our Technical Support Team between the hours of 8:30 and 5:30 (Eastern Standard Time) at (905) 227-8848 or Toll Free at 1-866-667-4362.

Technical support can also be obtained from our website (www.norgenbiotek.com) or through email at techsupport@norgenbiotek.com.

Product Use Restriction

Norgen's COVID-19/Influenza (A & B) TaqMan RT-PCR Kit is a multiplexed assay designed for the qualitative detection of SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A and B specific RNA using TaqMan® technology (FAM, HEX/VIC, TEX615 and Cy5). The assay can be used on RNA isolated from nasopharyngeal swabs, oropharyngeal swabs and saliva samples collected from individuals with clinical signs/symptoms related to SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A and B infection. This kit is designed for research use only and not for use in diagnostic procedures.

Norgen's COVID-19/Influenza (A & B) TaqMan RT-PCR Kit is intended for use by professional users such as technicians and biologists experienced and trained in molecular biological techniques including PCR.

Good laboratory practice is essential for the proper performance of this kit. Ensure that the purity of the kit and reactions is maintained at all times, and closely monitor all reagents for contamination. Do not use any reagents that appear to be contaminated.

Ensure that appropriate specimen collection, transport, storage and processing techniques are followed for optimal performance of this test.

The presence of PCR inhibitors may cause false negative or invalid results.

Potential mutations within the target regions of the SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A and B genome covered by the primers in this kit may result in failure to detect the presence of the pathogen.

The respective user is liable for any and all damages resulting from application of Norgen's COVID-19/Influenza (A & B) TaqMan RT-PCR Kit for use deviating from the intended use as specified in the user manual.

All products sold by Norgen Biotek are subjected to extensive quality control procedures and are warranted to perform as described when used correctly. Any problems should be reported immediately. The kit contents are for laboratory use only, and they must be stored in the laboratory and must not be used for purposes other than intended. The kit contents are unfit for consumption.

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