Comparison of three TaqMan Real-Time Reverse Transcription-PCR

assays in detecting SARS-CoV-2

- 4 Running title: Comparison of 3 qRT-PCR assays detecting SARS-CoV-2
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- 32 Abstract word count: 246
- 33 Text word count: 2037

34 Abstract 35 Quick and accurate detection of SARS-CoV-2 is critical for COVID-19 control. 36 Dozens of real-time reverse transcription PCR (qRT-PCR) assays have been 37 developed to meet the urgent need of COVID-19 control. However, methodological 38 comparisons among the developed qRT-PCR assays are limited. In the present study, 39 we evaluated the sensitivity, specificity, amplification efficiency, and linear detection 40 ranges of three qRT-PCR assays, including the assays developed by our group 41 (IPBCAMS), and the assays recommended by WHO and China CDC (CCDC). The 42 three qRT-PCR assays exhibited similar sensitivities, with the limit of detection (LOD) 43 at about 10 copies per reaction (except the ORF 1b gene assay in CCDC assays with a 44 LOD at about 100 copies per reaction). No cross reaction with other respiratory 45 viruses were observed in all of the three qRT-PCR assays. Wide linear detection 46 ranges from 10⁶ to 10¹ copies per reaction and acceptable reproducibility were 47 obtained. By using 25 clinical specimens, the N gene assay of IPBCAMS assays and 48 CCDC assays performed better (with detection rates of 92% and 100%, respectively) 49 than that of the WHO assays (with a detection rate of 60%), and the ORF 1b gene 50 assay in IPBCAMS assays performed better (with a detection rate of 64%) than those 51 of the WHO assays and the CCDC assays (with detection rates of 48% and 20%, respectively). In conclusion, the N gene assays of CCDC assays and IPBCAMS

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- 53 assays and the ORF 1b gene assay of IPBCAMS assays were recommended for
- 54 qRT-PCR screening of SARS-CoV-2.
- 55 **Key words:** SARS-CoV-2; qRT-PCR; methodological evaluation; Limit of Detection;
- 56 reproductivity, clinical performance

Introduction

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- 58 Since the first detection in late 2019, severe respiratory syndrome CoV-2
- 59 (SARS-CoV-2) caused Corona Virus Infectious Disease in 2019 (COVID-19) has
- widely spread in the world. By April 11, 2020, more than 1.7 million patients infected
- 61 by SARS-CoV-2 has been reported from 185 countries (1). Given the quick increase
- 62 in confirmed cases and asymptomatic infections, there are increasing demands in
- 63 diagnostic tools for quick and accurate detection of the virus (2, 3). Several real-time
- 64 reverse transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (qRT-PCR) for the detection of
- 65 SARS-COV-2 has been developed to meet the demands, including the assays by this
- group (IPBCAMS assays), and the assays by WHO (WHO assays), and the assays by
- 67 China CDC (CCDC assays).
- 68 Because SARS-CoV-2 usually infected the lower respiratory tract, it is not easy to
- 69 detect the viral nucleic acids from throat swabs with relatively lower viral load (4).
- 70 Thus, qRT-PCR assays with higher sensitivity and better performance in the detection
- of SARS-CoV-2 is recommended in aiding the diagnosis of COVID-19 (2). However,
- 72 most of the current available qRT-PCR assays were developed for emergency, a
- comprehensive methodological comparison among these assays remains unfulfilled.
- 74 To comprehensively compare the performance of currently available qRT-PCR assays
- 75 for detection of SARS-CoV-2, we evaluated the sensitivity, specificity, amplification
- 76 efficiency, and linear detection ranges among IPBCAMS assays, WHO assays and
- 77 CCDC assays.

78 Materials and methods

79 Nucleic acid extraction

- Nucleic acids were extracted from a volume of 200 µl clinical samples by using
- 81 NucliSens easyMag apparatus (bioMe´rieux, MarcyL`Etoile, France) according to the
- 82 manufacturer's instructions. A volume of 50 µl total nucleic acid eluate for each
- 83 specimen was recovered and transferred into a nuclease-free vial and either tested
- 84 immediately or stored at -80°C.

Primers and probes

- Sequences of primers and probes for the IPBCAMS assays were recently developed
- 87 (5), while those for the WHO assays were obtained from the website of WHO
- 88 (https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/protocol-v2-1.pdf?sfvrsn=a9ef
- 89 618c_2), and those for the CCDC assays were obtained from the website of China
- 90 CDC

91 (http://www.chinacdc.cn/jkzt/crb/zl/szkb_11803/jszl_11815/202003/W020200309540 92 843062947.pdf) (Table 1). Primers and probes were synthesized by standard 93 phosphoramidite chemistry techniques at Qingke biotechnology Co. ltd (Beijing, 94 China). TaqMan probes were labeled with the molecule 6-carboxy-fluroscein (FAM) 95 at the 5' end, and with the quencher Blackhole Quencher 1 (BHQ1) at the 3' end. 96 Optimal concentrations of the primers and probes were determined by cross-titration 97 of serial two-fold dilutions of each primer/probe against a constant amount of purified 98 RNA of SARS-CoV-2. 99 TaqMan real-time RT-PCR assay 100 The TaqMan real-time RT-PCR assays were performed by using TaqMan Fast Virus 101 1-Step Master Mix (Thermo Fisher Scientific, MA, USA). Each 20 µl reaction mix 102 contained 5 µl of 4×Fast Virus 1-Step Master Mix, 0.2 µl of 50 µM probe, 0.2 µl each 103 of 50 µM forward and reverse primers, 12.4 µl of nuclease-free water, and 2 µl of 104 nucleic acid extract. Amplifications were carried out in 96-well plates by using 105 Bio-Rad instrument (Bio-Rad CFX96, CA, USA). Thermo-cycling conditions are as 106 follows: 15 min at $50\Box$ for reverse transcription, 4 min at $95\Box$ for pre-denaturation, 107 followed by 45 cycles of 15 sec at $95\square$ and 45 sec at $60\square$. Fluorescence 108 measurements were taken at 60 of each cycle. The threshold cycle (Ct) value was 109 determined by the point at which fluorescence exceeded a threshold limit set at the 110 mean plus 10 stand deviations above the baseline. A result was considered positive if 111 two or more of the SARS-CoV-2 genome targets exhibited positive results (Ct \leq 35). 112 A result of $35 \le Ct \le 40$ was considered suspected and a repeat test was performed for 113 result confirmation. 114 **Preparation of RNA transcripts** 115 RNA transcripts for N gene and ORF 1b of SARS-CoV-2 were prepared with a 116 plasmid pEasy-T1 (TransGen Biotech, Beijing, China) with T7 promoter before the 117 multiple cloning sites. The plasmids inserted with viral gene regions of N and Orf1b 118 were linearized with the restriction enzyme, BamHI, and transcribed *in-vitro* by using RiboMAXTM Large Scale RNA Production Systems (Promega, WI, USA), 119 120 respectively. The concentrations of the RNA transcripts were determined by using

122 **Results**

NanoDrop (Thermo Fisher Scientific, CA, USA).

123 Comparison of the sensitivities, reproducibility and linear detection ranges of the 124 three qRT-PCR assays. 125 To determine the sensitivity of the three qRT-PCR assays, we measured the limit of 126 detection (LOD) for each assay by using RNA transcript of the corresponding gene in 127 ten-fold dilution as template (RNA transcript alone). A LOD of 10 genomic copies per 128 reaction was observed for both the N gene assay and the ORF 1b gene assay of all the 129 three qRT-PCR assays, although the Ct values for N gene assay of WHO assays and 130 ORF 1b gene assay of CCDC assays were higher than 35 cycles (Table 2). 131 The linear detection ranges of the three qRT-PCR assays were determined by using a 132 ten-fold dilution of the RNA transcript as template. It showed that the Ct values increased with the RNA transcript from 10⁶ to 10¹ copies in the reaction in all of the 133 134 three qRT-PCR assays (Table 2). Strong linear correlations were observed between Ct 135 values and quantity of RNA transcripts with r²=0.9926, 0.9750, 0.9987 in the N gene 136 assay, and r^2 =0.9953, 0.9897, 0.9941 in the ORF 1b assay of IPBCAMS assays, WHO 137 assays, and CCDC assays, respectively. These results suggested that all of the three qRT-PCR assays exhibited linear detection ranges from 10⁶ to 10¹ copies per reaction, 138 139 while the WHO assays showed lower coefficient of linear correlation. 140 The reproducibility of the three qRT-PCR assays was assessed by measuring 141 coefficient of variation (CV) of mean Ct values in the intra- and inter- assay. For the 142 N gene assay, the CVs of mean Ct values from 10⁶ to 10¹ copies of RNA transcript per reaction were 0.20%-1.33%, 0.46%-5.09%, 0.27%-1.97% in intra-assay, and 143 144 1.06%-2.45%, 0.96%-7.59%, 1.00%-5.51% in inter-assay of IPBCAMS assay, WHO 145 assay, and CCDC assay, respectively. For the ORF 1b gene assay, the CVs of mean Ct 146 values were 0.26%-4.45%, 0.29%-1.76%, 0.71%-6.52% in intra-assay, and 147 2.17%-5.12%, 0.30-1.57%, 2.63%-4.34% in inter-assay of IPBCAMS assays, WHO 148 assays, and CCDC assays, respectively. 149 Because co-infections of respiratory viruses are common, we prepared a (v:v=1:1) 150 mixture of the RNA transcript and a pooled total nucleic acid extract from respiratory 151 specimens (RNA transcript + other extract) as template, to evaluate the effect of 152 co-existed viral nucleic acids on the performance of the assays. No effect of the 153 co-existed other viral nucleic acids on the LOD and the linear detection range was 154 observed, although higher Ct values were generated than those of RNA transcript 155 alone as template in all of the three qRT-PCR assays. However, the co-existed other

viral nucleic acids put some effect on the efficiencies of the three qRT-PCR assays.

- For the N gene assays, the efficiencies were moved from 105.82%, 107.23%,
- 158 102.21% to 110.17%, 124.32%, 119.43% in IPBCAMS assays, WHO assays, CCDC
- assays, respectively. For the ORF 1b assays, the efficiencies were moved from
- 160 107.71%, 121.83%, 93.80% to 109.18%, 138.43%, 100.92% in IPBCAMS assays,
- 161 WHO assays, CCDC assays, respectively.

162 Comparison of the specificities of the three qRT-PCR assays

- To evaluate the potential cross-reactions with other human respiratory viruses, the
- three qRT-PCR assays were examined by using human respiratory samples as
- templates, which were positive for human coronaviruses (OC43, NL63, 229E, or
- 166 HKU1), or Influenza viruses (A or B), or respiratory syncytial virus, or parainfluenza
- virus (1-4), or human metapneumovirus, or rhinovirus, or adenovirus, or bocavirus.
- No cross reaction was observed in all of the three qRT-PCR assays (data not shown),
- suggesting high specificity of the three qRT-PCR assays in detecting SARS-CoV-2.

170 Assay evaluation with clinical specimens

- 171 The three qRT-PCR assays were evaluated with 25 clinical specimens (including 13
- throat swabs and 12 sputum) from 25 suspected COVID-19 patients. SARS-CoV-2
- was detected from 92% (23/25), 60% (15/25), 100% (25/25) by the N gene assay, and
- 174 from 64% (16/25), 48% (12/25), 20% (5/25) of all enrolled clinical specimens by the
- ORF 1b gene assay in IPBCAMS assays, WHO assays, CCDC assays, respectively
- 176 (Table 4). With respect to the sputum, SARS-CoV-2 was detected from 100% (12/12),
- 177 75% (8/12), 100% (12/12) of specimens by the N gene assay, and from 100% (12/12),
- 178 75% (8/12), 41.7% (5/12) of specimens by the ORF 1b gene assay in in IPBCAMS
- assays, WHO assays, CCDC assays, respectively. About the throat swabs,
- 180 SARS-CoV-2 was detected from 84.6% (11/13), 53.8% (7/13), 100% (12/12) of
- 181 specimens by the N gene assay, and from 30.8% (4/13), 30.8% (4/13), 0% (0/13) of
- specimens by the ORF 1b gene assay in in IPBCAMS assays, WHO assays, CCDC
- assays, respectively. These results demonstrated that the N gene assay performed
- better than the corresponding ORF 1b gene assay of all the three qRT-PCR assays, the
- 185 N gene assay in CCDC assays and ORF 1b gene assay in IPBCAMS assays
- performed better than the other assays.

187 **Discussion**

- 188 Rapid and accurate detection of SARS-CoV-2 represent a fast-growing global demand,
- which could be met by TaqMan real time RT-PCR (qRT-PCR). However, the current
- available TaqMan qRT-PCR assays for SARS-CoV-2 are varied in performance,

191 including sensitivity, specificity, reproducibility, linear detection ranges, etc. Due to 192 that relative lower viral load in upper respiratory tract, reliable qRT-PCR assays for 193 the detection of SARS-CoV-2 are required. We thus compared the performance of 194 three currently wide-applied qRT-PCR assays in the detection of SARS-CoV-2. 195 Sensitivity is the primary demand in the detection of respiratory viruses (6). All of the 196 three qRT-PCR assays could provide a LOD of 10 genomic copies per reaction with a 197 detection range from 10⁶-10¹ genomic copies per reaction. The Ct value at 10 198 genomic copies per reaction in the ORF 1b gene assay of CCDC assays was higher 199 than 35. These results suggested that most of the three qRT-PCR assays provide high 200 sensitivity and wide linear detection range in detecting SARS-CoV-2, except a 201 relative lower sensitivity observed in the ORF 1b gene assay of CCDC assays. 202 Specificity is also essential in the detection of SARS-CoV-2, because of common 203 co-infections with other respiratory viruses and high host DNA background in throat 204 swabs (7-9). We evaluated the specificity of the three qRT-PCR assays with 205 respiratory specimens positive for other common respiratory viruses. No cross 206 reaction was observed, demonstrating high specificity of the three qRT-PCR assays in 207 detection of SARS-CoV-2. 208 We next evaluated the reproducibility of the three qRT-PCR assays by measuring 209 coefficient of variation (CV) of mean Ct values in intra- and inter- assay (10). The N 210 gene assay in IPBCAMS assays and ORF 1b gene assay in WHO assays exhibited a 211 relative better reproducibility with lower intra- and inter- assay CVs, which were not 212 affected by the co-existed nucleic acids of other respiratory viruses. 213 Efficiency is another key parameter of qRT-PCR, reflecting the binding efficiency of 214 primers & probe to template and the amplification efficiency of the PCR system(11). 215 Most of the qRT-PCR assays provided good efficiency, except an abnormal efficiency 216 of 121.83% observed in the ORF 1b gene assay of WHO assays. An exceptionally 217 high efficiency indicates an increased risk of false positive (12). The co-existed 218 nucleic acids of other respiratory viruses increased the efficiency of all the three 219 qRT-PCR assays, suggesting potential increased risk of cross-reactions between the 220 primers & probe and background nucleic acids. 221 We finally evaluate the performance of the three qRT-PCR assays with clinical 222 specimens from suspected SARS-CoV-2 infected patients (13). Possibly because of 223 the lower viral load in upper respiratory tract (4), the detection rate of SARS-CoV-2 224 was lower in throat swabs than in sputum by all of the three assays. Meanwhile, the N

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gene assay performed better than the corresponding ORF 1b gene assay in all of the three qRT-PCR assays. For the N gene assay, IPBCAMS assays and CCDC assays performed better than WHO assays, both of which could detect SARS-CoV-2 from more than 90% of the suspected specimens. For the ORF1b gene assay, IPBCAMS assays performed better than WHO assays and CCDC assays, with a detection rate of 64%. In conclusion, we performed methodological evaluations on three widely-applied qRT-PCR assays for the detection of SARS-CoV-2. Although most of the evaluated assays exhibited good sensitivity, specificity, reproducibility and wide linear detection range, performance test with clinical specimens from suspected COVID-19 patients suggested that the N gene assay in IPBCAMS assays and CCDC assays, and the ORF 1b gene assays in IPBCAMS assays were the preferred qRT-PCR assays for accurate detection of SARS-CoV-2. Data availability The original data will be available upon request. **Conflict of interest** The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper. Acknowledgements We would like to thank the clinicians who contributed to sample collection and transportation. This study was funded in part by the Project from the Ministry of Science and Technology of China (2020YFC0841200), the National Major Science & Technology Project for Control and Prevention of Major Infectious Diseases of China (2017ZX10103004), the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) Innovation Fund for Medical Sciences (2020HY320001), the key R&D plan of Shanxi Province (202003D31003/GZ) and the non-profit Central Research Institute Fund of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (2019PT310029).

Table 1. Primers and probes of the three qRT-PCR assays

Assay		Primer/probe Sequence (5'-3')		Genomic location*	Amplicon	
	IPBCAMS	Forward	AACACAAGCTTTCGGCAGAC	29083-29102		
	assays	Reverse	ACCTGTGTAGGTCAACCACG	29278-29259	195 bp	
		Probe	CAGCGCTTCAGCGTTCTTCGGAATGTCGC	29200-29228		
N. cono	WHO assays	Forward	CACATTGGCACCCGCAATC	28706-28724		
N gene		Reverse	GAGGAACGAGAAGAGGCTTG	28833-28814	127 bp	
assay		Probe	ACTTCCTCAAGGAACAACATTGCCA	28753-28777		
	CCDC assays	Forward	GGGGAACTTCTCCTGCTAGAAT	28881-28902		
		Reverse	CAGACATTTTGCTCTCAAGCTG	28979-28958	98 bp	
		Probe	TTGCTGCTGCTTGACAGATT	28934-28953		
	IPBCAMS assays	Forward	ACGGTGACATGGTACCACAT	13760-13779		
		Reverse	CTAAGTTGGCGTATACGCGT	13975-13956	215 bp	
		Probe	TACACAATGGCAGACCTCGTCTATGC	13804-13829		
ORF 1b	WHO assays	Forward	GTGARATGGTCATGTGTGGCGG	15431-15452		
gene		Reverse	CARATGTTAAASACACTATTAGCATA	15530-15505	99 bp	
assay		Probe	CAGGTGGAACCTCATCAGGAGATGC	15470-15494		
	CCDC	Forward	CCCTGTGGGTTTTACACTTAA	13342-13362		
		Reverse	ACGATTGTGCATCAGCTGA	13460-13442	118 bp	
	assays	Probe	CCGTCTGCGGTATGTGGAAAGGTTATGG	13377-13404		

Numbering according to a reference genome of SARS-CoV-2 (MN908947.3)

Table 2. Reproducibility (Coefficient of Variation, %) of the three qRT-PCR assays

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	Access		Copy number of RNA transcript						
	Assay	1×10 ⁶	1×10 ⁵	1×10 ⁴	1×10 ³	1×10^{2}	1×10 ¹		
	IDDCAMC	Intra-assay	0.52*	1.33	0.37	0.46	0.20	1.25	
	IPBCAMS assays	Inter-assay	1.06	2.45	1.49	1.32	1.37	1.45	
N gene assay	WIIO accesso	Intra-assay	1.08	1.19	1.12	0.87	0.46	5.09	
	WHO assays	Inter-assay	7.59	2.94	2.78	6.60	0.96	3.77	
	CCDC	Intra-assay	0.52	0.54	0.27	0.74	0.41	1.97	
	CCDC assays	Inter-assay	1.56	1.20	5.51	1.00	1.40	2.89	
	IPBCAMS assays	Intra-assay	0.73	0.26	1.10	1.30	4.45	3.36	
		Inter-assay	4.66	3.85	2.77	2.17	5.12	3.50	
ORF 1b gene	WHO assays	Intra-assay	0.57	0.47	0.88	0.41	0.29	1.76	
assay		Inter-assay	1.57	0.30	0.87	0.69	0.55	1.23	
	CCDC assays	Intra-assay	1.66	0.78	0.71	0.92	2.45	6.52	
		Inter-assay	0.52	0.54	0.27	0.74	0.41	1.97	

The coefficient of variation was calculated by standard deviation of the Ct values of a RNA dilution divided by the mean Ct values of the same RNA dilution.

Table 3. Efficiency of the three qRT-PCR assays

	Access	Template	Mean Ct values at quantified copy number of RNA transcript						Slope a	Efficiency
	Assay	тетрые	1×10 ⁶	1×10 ⁵	1×10 ⁴	1×10 ³	1×10 ²	1×10 ¹	Stope	(%) ^b
	IPBCAMS	RNA transcript d alone	17.63±0.09 °	21.99±0.29	24.08±0.09	28.25±0.13	31.00±0.06	33.73±0.25	-3.19	105.82
	assays	RNA transcript + other viruses	19.40±0.19	22.40±0.04	26.38±0.09	29.98±0.07	32.17±0.28	34.51±0.26	-3.10	110.17
N gene	WIIIO	RNA transcript alone	18.44±0.19	22.65±0.27	26.78±0.32	29.60±0.26	32.68±0.15	33.97±1.73	-3.16	107.23
assay	WHO assays	RNA transcript + other viruses	19.51±0.15	24.83±0.36	26.59±0.29	29.62±0.54	32.62±0.70	34.19±0.51	-2.85	124.32
	CCDC	RNA transcript alone	17.17±0.09	20.71±0.11	23.94±0.07	27.57±0.20	30.37±0.12	33.53±0.50	-3.27	102.21
	CCDC assays	RNA transcript + other viruses	18.93±0.16	23.79±0.20	25.66±0.23	29.58±0.52	31.92±0.16	33.81±0.87	-2.93	119.43
	IPBCAMS	RNA transcript alone	18.64 ± 0.14	22.20±0.06	25.73±0.28	28.83±0.37	31.90±1.42	34.22±1.15	-3.15	107.71
ORF	assays	RNA transcript + other viruses	19.45±0.06	22.98±0.13	25.88±0.17	29.37±0.12	32.83±0.40	34.65±2.12	-3.12	109.18
1b	WIIO	RNA transcript alone	18.51±0.11	21.60±0.10	25.05±0.22	28.27±0.12	30.78±0.09	32.57±0.57	-2.89	121.83
gene	WHO assays	RNA transcript + other viruses	19.46±0.09	22.58±0.13	25.75±0.19	28.20±0.20	30.03±0.70	33.04±0.14	-2.65	138.43
assay	CCDC assessed	RNA transcript alone	18.80±0.31	21.96±0.17	24.76±0.18	28.06±0.26	32.47±0.79	36.16±2.36	-3.48	93.80
	CCDC assays	RNA transcript + other viruses	18.67±0.04	21.54±0.11	24.79±0.03	28.28±0.04	31.09±0.98	35.33±0.59	-3.30	100.92

^a Slope was generated by fitting of the scatter with Excel 2010.

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²⁶⁶ b Efficiency = $10^{(-1/\text{slope})} - 1$.

^c Values shown are the mean of triplicate samples \pm standard deviation.

^d "RNA transcript" represents the *in vitro* transcribed RNA of the corresponding genes of SARS-CoV-2. "other viruses" represents the pooled RNA extracted from 15 human respiratory specimens by using Trizol. "RNA transcript + other viruses" represents a 1:1 (v/v) mixture of these two components.

Table 4. Evaluation of the three qRT-PCR assays with clinical specimens

Specimen	Specimen		N gene assay		ORF 1b gene assay			
ID	type	IPBCAMS	WHO	CCDC	IPBCAMS	WHO	CCDC	
TS98	Throat swab	35.79	NA	35.42	NA	NA	NA	
TS101	Throat swab	33.48	NA	34.24	NA	NA	NA	
TS103	Throat swab	NA	NA	34.68	NA	NA	NA	
TS105	Throat swab	31.5	35.76	31.64	NA	NA	NA	
TS108	Throat swab	33.35	NA	32.11	33.36	NA	NA	
TS110	Throat swab	29.99	31.73	29.1	33.57	NA	NA	
TS165	Throat swab	27.34	30.46	28.14	31.06	27.84	NA	
TS168	Throat swab	NA	NA	34.97	NA	NA	NA	
TS169	Throat swab	33.34	NA	34.04	NA	34.2	NA	
TS187	Throat swab	34.5	39.2	33.03	NA	NA	NA	
TS188	Throat swab	35.03	35.9	33.57	NA	24.07	NA	
TS189	Throat swab	31.16	35.43	31.21	34.04	30.92	NA	
TS190	Throat swab	32.84	34.02	32.56	NA	NA	NA	
TY1	Sputum	27.35	29.44	27.6	30.98	27.33	NA	
TY2	Sputum	29.38	31.26	29.06	32.32	28.72	NA	
TY3	Sputum	31.85	NA	31.3	35.84	NA	NA	
TY4	Sputum	22.99	25.57	22.08	27.42	24.12	35.99	
TY6	Sputum	25.51	27.52	25.58	29.03	25.58	41.54	
TY7	Sputum	26.9	30.21	27.4	30.05	27.3	45.26	
TY8	Sputum	29.21	31.87	30.06	33.65	29.84	NA	
TY9	Sputum	26.29	28.45	26.34	30.69	26.03	46.34	
XT1	Sputum	25.74	27.26	25.3	29.82	26.34	45.9	
XT2	Sputum	31.57	NA	30.95	34.19	NA	NA	
XT3	Sputum	31.14	NA	32.02	35.02	NA	NA	
XT4	Sputum	32.67	NA	31.71	34.26	NA	NA	
account (%) of positive	23 (92%)	15 (60%)	25 (100%)	16 (64%)	12 (48%)	5(20%)	

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