

May 08,
2019

Working

Influenza A H3 virus TaqMan assay

Version 2

Ian Mackay¹, Judy Northill²

¹Public Health Virology, Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health, ²Public Health Virology, Forensic and Scientific Services

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.2qwgdx



Ian M. Mackay

Public Health Virology, Forensic and Scientific Services



ABSTRACT

This assay is a modification to the World Health Organization's influenza A H3 TaqMan documented in 'WHO information for molecular diagnosis of influenza virus - update 1' (see file below). New primers were added and the WHO primers discarded.

Influenza_WHO_update_2
01403rev201505.pdf

STEPS MATERIALS

NAME	CATALOG #	VENDOR	CAS NUMBER	RRID
SuperScript™ III Platinum™ One-Step qRT-PCR Kit	11732088	Life Technologies		

BEFORE STARTING

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

Oligonucleotides

1	Name	5'-3' SEQUENCE
	H3hFor1	GGTACGGYTTTCAGGCAT
	H3hRev1	TCAATCTGATGGAATTTCTCGTTG
	H3h-1144dProbe	6FAM-CTGCTGCTTGTCTCCTCTCCCT-BHQ1

- The oligoprobe is from the World Health Organization protocol linked below.
 - New primers were designed to improve assay performance.
- http://www.who.int/entity/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/molecular_diagnosis_influenza_virus_humans_update_201403rev201505.pdf?ua=1

2



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

Reaction Set-up

3 The assay has been used on both a Rotor-Gene 6000 and a Rotor-Gene Q real-time thermocycler

- Prepare sufficient mix for the number of reactions.
- Include a suitable 'dead volume' as necessary if using a robotic dispenser.

Reagent	Vol (μL) X1	Final reaction concentration
---------	-------------	------------------------------

Nuclease-free water	4.43	
H3hFor1 (200pmol/μL)	0.05	500nM
H3hRev1 (200pmol/μL)	0.05	500nM
H3h-1144dProbe (100pmol/μL)	0.03	150nM
2X Reaction Mix ¹	10.0	1X
ROX reference Dye (25μM) ^{1,2}	0.04	50nM
SuperScript™ III/Platinum™ Taq Mix ¹	0.4	
TOTAL	15	

1-Superscript™III Platinum™ One-step qRT-PCR kit; 2-See Guidelines

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

Amplification

4 RT-PCR

50°C	5min	
95°C	2min	
95°C	3s	40X
60°C	30s*	

*Fluorescence acquisition step

Result analysis

- 5 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

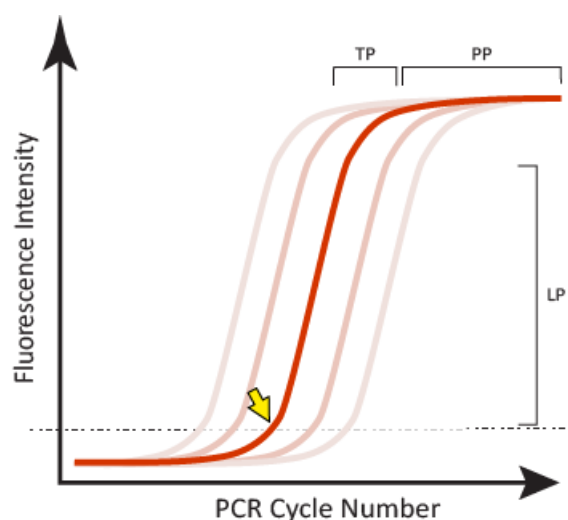


Figure 1. Examples of satisfactory sigmoidal amplification curve shape when considering an assay's fluorescent signal output. The crossing point or threshold cycle (C_T) is indicated (yellow arrow); it is the value at which fluorescence levels surpass a predefined (usually set during validation, or arbitrary)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

