

PCR tiling of COVID-19 virus

Version: PTC_9096_v109_revE_06Feb2020
Last update: 26/03/2020

Flow Cell Number:

DNA Samples:

Before start checklist

Materials

- ☐ Input RNA
- ☐ Native Barcoding Expansion 1-12 (EXP-NBD104) and 13-24 (EXP-NBD114) if multiplexing more than 12 samples
- ☐ Ligation Sequencing Kit (SQK-LSK109)
- ☐ Flow Cell Priming Kit (EXP-FLP002)
- ☐ SFB Expansion (EXP-SFB001)

Consumables

- ☐ Q5[™] Hot Start High-Fidelity 2X Master Mix (NEB, M0494)
- ☐ Random Primer Mix (NEB, S1330S)
- ☐ 10 mM dNTP solution (e.g. NEB N0447)
- ☐ SuperScript IV reverse transcriptase, 5X RT buffer and 100 mM DTT (ThermoFisher Scientific, 18090010)
- ☐ RNaseOUT[®], 40 U/1 l (Life Technologies, 10777019)
- ☐ COVID-19 primers (lab-ready at 100 µM, IDT)
- ☐ Nuclease-free water (e.g. ThermoFisher, cat # AM9937)
- ☐ Agencourt AMPure XP beads
- ☐ Freshly prepared 80% ethanol in nuclease-free water
- ☐ Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit (ThermoFisher Q32851)
- ☐ NEBNext Ultra II End repair / dA-tailing Module (E7546)
- ☐ NEBNext Ultra II Ligation Module (E7595)
- ☐ NEBNext Quick Ligation Module (E6056)
- ☐ DNA 12000 Kit & Reagents - optional (Agilent Technologies)
- ☐ 0.2 ml thin-walled PCR tubes
- ☐ 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tubes

Equipment

- ☐ Hula mixer (gentle rotator mixer)
- ☐ Magnetic separator, suitable for 1.5 ml Eppendorf tubes
- ☐ Microfuge
- ☐ Vortex mixer
- ☐ Thermal cycler
- ☐ Ice bucket with ice
- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Pipettes and pipette tips P2, P10, P20, P100, P200, P1000

INSTRUCTIONS

NOTES/OBSERVATIONS

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Reverse transcription	
<p>IMPORTANT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Keep the RNA sample on ice as much as possible to prevent nucleolytic degradation, which may affect sensitivity.</p> <p>In a clean pre-PCR hood, mix together the following components in a 0.2 ml PCR tube on ice or in a PCR cool rack such as the Eppendorf PCR-Cooler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 µl 60 µM random hexamers and anchored polyT(23) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 µl 10 mM dNTPs <input type="checkbox"/> 11 µl RNA sample <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mix gently by flicking the tube, and spin down. Return the tube to ice.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Preheat the thermal cycler to 65°C, with a heated lid at 105°C.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Incubate the reaction in the thermal cycler at 65°C for 5 mins.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Immediately snap-cool the sample by placing on ice for >1 min. More consistent cooling may be achieved using a PCR tube cool block such as the Eppendorf PCR-Cooler.</p> <p>In a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube, mix together the following reagents in a clean pre-PCR hood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 4 µl 5X SuperScript IV buffer <input type="checkbox"/> 1 µl 100 mM DTT <input type="checkbox"/> 1 µl RNaseOUT RNase Inhibitor <input type="checkbox"/> 1 µl Superscript IV Reverse Transcriptase <p><input type="checkbox"/> After the RNA sample has cooled for >1 min, add 7 µl of the above master mix to the sample in the pre-PCR hood.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mix gently by flicking the tube, and spin down. Return the tube to ice.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Preheat the thermal cycler to 42°C, with a heated lid at 105°C.</p> <p>Incubate the sample in the thermal cycler using the following program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 50 min 42°C <input type="checkbox"/> 10 min 70°C <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 4°C 	
While the reverse transcription reaction is running, prepare the primer pools as described in the next section.	
PCR and clean-up	
<p>IMPORTANT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We recommend ordering the required primers from IDT in a lab-ready format at 100 µM. However, if primers have been ordered lyophilised, they should be resuspended in water or low-EDTA TE buffer to a final concentration of 100 µM.</p>	
<p>IMPORTANT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We recommend handling the primer stocks and derivatives in a clean pre-PCR hood.</p>	

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<input type="checkbox"/> Add 5 µl of each primer from pool A to a 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube to give a 100 µM stock primer pool. <input type="checkbox"/> Add 5 µl of each primer from pool B to a 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube to give a 100 µM stock primer pool. <input type="checkbox"/> Dilute each 100 µM stock 1 in 10 with Nuclease-free water to form a working stock of each pool at 10 µM. In a clean pre-PCR hood, set up two individual reactions using primer pool A and primer pool B in clean 0.2 ml PCR tubes: <input type="checkbox"/> Reverse-transcribed sample from above 2.5 µl 2.5 µl <input type="checkbox"/> Q5 [™] Hot Start High-Fidelity 2X Master Mix 12.5 µl 12.5 µl <input type="checkbox"/> Primer pool at 10 µM (A or B) 3.7 µl 3.7 µl <input type="checkbox"/> Nuclease-free water 6.3 µl 6.3 µl	
IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> Carry forward the negative control from the reverse transcription reaction to monitor cross-contamination events.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mix gently by flicking the tubes, and spin down. Incubate using the following program, with the heated lid set to 105°C: <input type="checkbox"/> Initial denaturation 30 sec @ 98°C (1 cycle) <input type="checkbox"/> Denaturation 15 sec @ 98°C (25-35 cycles) <input type="checkbox"/> Annealing and extension 5 min @ 65°C (25-35 cycles) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold @ 4°C	
IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> If available, a clean post-PCR hood should be used for all steps that involve handling amplified material. Decontamination with UV and or DNAzap between sample batches is recommended.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Combine the 25 µl reaction from pool A and the 25 µl reaction from pool B into a new 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube; one tube per sample. <input type="checkbox"/> Resuspend the AMPure XP beads by vortexing. <input type="checkbox"/> Add 50 µl of resuspended AMPure XP beads to the reaction and mix by flicking the tube. <input type="checkbox"/> Incubate on a Hula mixer (rotator mixer) for 10 minutes at RT. <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare 500 ml of fresh 80% ethanol in Nuclease-free water. <input type="checkbox"/> Spin down the sample and pellet the beads on a magnet for 5 mins. Keep the tube on the magnet, and pipette off the supernatant. <input type="checkbox"/> Keep the tube on the magnet and wash the beads with 200 µl of freshly-prepared 80% ethanol without disturbing the pellet. Keeping the magnetic rack on the benchtop, rotate the bead-containing tube by 180°. Wait for the beads to migrate towards the magnet and form a pellet. Remove the ethanol using a pipette and discard. <input type="checkbox"/> Repeat the previous step.	

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<input type="checkbox"/> Spin down and place the tubes back on the magnet. Pipette off any residual ethanol. Allow to dry for ~30 seconds, but do not dry the pellet to the point of cracking. <input type="checkbox"/> Remove the tube from the magnetic rack and resuspend pellet in 15 µl Nuclease-free water. Incubate for 2 minutes at RT. <input type="checkbox"/> Pellet the beads on a magnet until the eluate is clear and colourless. Remove and retain 15 µl of eluate into a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube. <input type="checkbox"/> Remove and retain the eluate which contains the DNA library in a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube <input type="checkbox"/> Dispose of the pelleted beads <input type="checkbox"/> Quantify 1 µl of eluted sample using a Qubit fluorometer. <input type="checkbox"/> Store any unused amplified material at -20°C for use in later experiments. Expected results	
End-prep	
IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> For optimal efficiency of the end-prep reaction, use ~200 fmol (50 ng for 400 bp amplicons) of cDNA from the previous step.	
IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> We recommended carrying the RT negative control through this step until sequencing.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Determine the volume of the cleaned-up PCR reaction that yields 200 fmol (50 ng) of DNA. <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare the NEBNext Ultra II End repair / dA-tailing Module reagents in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, and place on ice. In a 0.2 ml thin-walled PCR tube, mix in the following order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> x µl (50 ng per sample) cDNA <input type="checkbox"/> 12.5-x µl Nuclease-free water <input type="checkbox"/> 1.75 µl Ultra II End-prep reaction buffer <input type="checkbox"/> 0.75 µl Ultra II End-prep enzyme mix <input type="checkbox"/> Mix gently by flicking the tube, and spin down. <input type="checkbox"/> Using a thermal cycler, incubate at 20°C for 5 mins and 65°C for 5 mins.	
Take forward the end-prepped DNA into the native barcode ligation step.	
Native barcode ligation	
IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> To monitor cross-contamination events, we recommend that the RT negative control is carried through this process and a barcode is used to sequence this control.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thaw the Native Barcodes at RT, enough for one barcode per sample. Individually mix the barcodes by pipetting, and place them on ice.	

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<div><input type="checkbox"/> Thaw the tube of Short Fragment Buffer (SFB) at RT, mix by vortexing, spin down and place on ice.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Select a unique barcode for every sample to be run together on the same flow cell, from the provided 24 barcodes. Up to 24 samples can be barcoded and combined in one experiment.</div> <div>Add the reagents in the order given below, mixing by flicking the tube between each sequential addition:</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> 5.5 µl Nuclease-free water</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> 1.5 µl End-prepped DNA</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> 2.5 µl Native Barcode</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> 10 µl NEBNext Ultra II Ligation Master Mix</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> 0.5 µl NEBNext Ligation Enhancer</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Mix contents thoroughly by pipetting and spin down briefly.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Using a thermal cycler, incubate at 20°C for 20 mins and at 65°C for 10 mins.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Pool all barcoded samples together into a 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Resuspend the AMPure XP beads by vortexing.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Add 0.4x volumes of resuspended AMPure XP beads to the reaction and mix by pipetting. For example, 24 reaction pooled to a total of 480 µl would require 192 µl AMPure XP beads.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Incubate on a Hula mixer (rotator mixer) for 10 minutes at RT.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare sufficient fresh 80% ethanol in Nuclease-free water.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down the sample and pellet the beads on a magnet for 5 mins. Keep the tube on the magnet, and pipette off the supernatant.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Wash the beads by adding 700 µl Short Fragment Buffer (SFB). Flick the beads to resuspend, then return the tube to the magnetic rack and allow the beads to pellet. Remove the supernatant using a pipette and discard.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Repeat the previous step.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Keep the tube on the magnet and wash the beads with 100 µl of freshly-prepared 80% ethanol without disturbing the pellet. Remove the ethanol using a pipette and discard.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down and place the tube back on the magnet. Pipette off any residual ethanol. Allow to dry for ~30 seconds, but do not dry the pellet to the point of cracking.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Remove the tube from the magnetic rack and resuspend pellet in 35 µl Nuclease-free water. Incubate for 2 minutes at RT.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Pellet the beads on a magnet until the eluate is clear and colourless.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Remove and retain 35 µl of eluate into a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Quantify 1 µl of eluted sample using a Qubit fluorometer - recovery aim 2 ng/µl.</div>	

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<p>Adapter ligation and clean-up</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thaw Elution Buffer (EB) and NEBNext Quick Ligation Reaction Buffer (5x) at RT, mix by vortexing, spin down and place on ice. Check the contents of each tube are clear of any precipitate.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down the T4 Ligase and the Adapter Mix II (AMII), and place on ice.</p> <p>Taking the pooled and barcoded DNA, perform adapter ligation as follows, mixing by flicking the tube between each sequential addition.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> x µl (~30-50 ng of pooled barcoded material) Pooled barcoded sample</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 30-x µl Nuclease-free water</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5 µl Adapter Mix II (AMII)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10 µl NEBNext Quick Ligation Reaction Buffer (5X)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5 µl Quick T4 DNA Ligase</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mix gently by flicking the tube, and spin down.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Incubate the reaction for 20 minutes at RT.</p>	
<p>IMPORTANT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The next clean-up step uses SFB (Short Fragment Buffer) and not 80% ethanol to wash the beads. The use of ethanol will significantly damage the sequencing reaction.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Resuspend the AMPure XP beads by vortexing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Add 20 µl of resuspended AMPure XP beads to the reaction and mix by pipetting.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Incubate on a Hula mixer (rotator mixer) for 10 minutes at RT.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down the sample and pellet the beads on a magnet for 5 mins. Keep the tube on the magnet, and pipette off the supernatant.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Wash the beads by adding 125 µl Short Fragment Buffer (SFB). Flick the beads to resuspend, then return the tube to the magnetic rack and allow the beads to pellet. Remove the supernatant using a pipette and discard.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Repeat the previous step.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down and place the tube back on the magnet. Pipette off any residual supernatant.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Remove the tube from the magnetic rack and resuspend pellet in 15 µl Elution Buffer (EB).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pellet the beads on a magnet until the eluate is clear and colourless.</p> <p>Remove and retain 15 µl of eluate into a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Remove and retain the eluate which contains the DNA library in a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dispose of the pelleted beads</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Quantify 1 µl of eluted sample using a Qubit fluorometer.</p>	
<p>IMPORTANT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We recommend loading ~15 ng of this final prepared library onto the flow cell. Loading more than 15 ng can have a detrimental effect on throughput. Dilute the library in EB if required.</p>	

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The prepared library is used for loading into the MinION Mk 1B flow cell. Store the library on ice until ready to load.	
Priming and loading the SpotON flow cell	
<p>IMPORTANT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Please note that the Sequencing Tether (SQT) tube will NOT be used in this protocol. It is provided in the kit for potential future product compatibility.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thaw the Sequencing Buffer (SQB), Loading Beads (LB), Flush Tether (FLT) and one tube of Flush Buffer (FB) at RT before placing the tubes on ice as soon as thawing is complete.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mix the Sequencing Buffer (SQB), Flush Buffer (FB) and Flush Tether (FLT) tubes by vortexing, spin down then return to ice.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Open the MinION Mk1B lid and slide the flow cell under the clip.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slide the priming port cover clockwise to open the priming port.</p> <p>How to prime and load the SpotON Flow Cell</p>	
<p>IMPORTANT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Take care when drawing back buffer from the flow cell. Do not remove more than 20-30 µls, and make sure that the array of pores are covered by buffer at all times. Introducing air bubbles into the array can irreversibly damage pores.</p> <p>After opening the priming port, check for a small air bubble under the cover. Draw back a small volume to remove any bubbles (a few µls):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Set a P1000 pipette to 200 µl</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Insert the tip into the priming port</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Turn the wheel until the dial shows 220-230 µl, or until you can see a small volume of buffer entering the pipette tip</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare the flow cell priming mix: add 30 µl of thawed and mixed Flush Tether (FLT) directly to the tube of thawed and mixed Flush Buffer (FB), and mix by vortexing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Load 800 µl of the priming mix into the flow cell via the priming port, avoiding the introduction of air bubbles. Wait for 5 minutes. During this time, prepare the library for loading by following the steps below.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thoroughly mix the contents of the Loading Beads (LB) by pipetting.</p>	
<p>IMPORTANT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Loading Beads (LB) tube contains a suspension of beads. These beads settle very quickly. It is vital that they are mixed immediately before use.</p> <p>In a new tube, prepare the library for loading as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 37.5 µl Sequencing Buffer (SQB)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 25.5 µl Loading Beads (LB), mixed immediately before use</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 12 µl DNA library</p>	

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<p>Complete the flow cell priming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Gently lift the SpotON sample port cover to make the SpotON sample port accessible.<input type="checkbox"/> Load 200 µl of the priming mix into the flow cell via the priming port (not the SpotON sample port), avoiding the introduction of air bubbles.<input type="checkbox"/> Mix the prepared library gently by pipetting up and down just prior to loading.<input type="checkbox"/> Add 75 µl of sample to the flow cell via the SpotON sample port in a dropwise fashion. Ensure each drop flows into the port before adding the next.<input type="checkbox"/> Gently replace the SpotON sample port cover, making sure the bung enters the SpotON port, close the priming port and replace the MinION Mk1B lid.	
<p>Ending the experiment</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> After your sequencing experiment is complete, if you would like to reuse the flow cell, please follow the Wash Kit instructions and store the washed flow cell at 2-8 °C, OR<input type="checkbox"/> Follow the returns procedure by washing out the flow cell ready to send back to Oxford Nanopore.	
<p>IMPORTANT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> If you encounter issues or have questions about your sequencing experiment, please refer to the Troubleshooting Guide that can be found in the online version of this protocol.	