

# Automated high throughput viral concentration from wastewater using the KingFisher Flex platform

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Nov 19, 2020

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## ABSTRACT

Large-scale wastewater surveillance has the ability to greatly augment the tracking of infection dynamics especially in communities where the prevalence rates far exceed the testing capacity. However, current methods for viral detection in wastewater are severely lacking in terms of scaling up for high throughput. In the present study, we employed an automated magnetic-bead based concentration approach for viral detection in sewage that can effectively be scaled up for processing 24 samples in a single 40-minute run. The method compared favorably to conventionally used methods for viral wastewater concentrations with a limit of detection of 8.809 viral gene copies/ml from input sample volumes as low as 10ml and can enable the processing of over 100 wastewater samples in a day.

## EXTERNAL LINK

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.11.16.20232900v1>

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## PROTOCOL CITATION

Smruthi Karthikeyan, Greg Humphrey 2020. Automated high throughput viral concentration from wastewater using the KingFisher Flex platform. **protocols.io**  
<https://protocols.io/view/automated-high-throughput-viral-concentration-from-bptemnj>

## MANUSCRIPT CITATION

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## KEYWORDS

WBE, high-throughput, viral concentration, wastewater

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## CREATED

Nov 17, 2020

## LAST MODIFIED

Nov 19, 2020

## ABSTRACT

Large-scale wastewater surveillance has the ability to greatly augment the tracking of infection dynamics especially in communities where the prevalence rates far exceed the testing capacity. However, current methods for viral detection in wastewater are severely lacking in terms of scaling up for high throughput. In the present study, we employed an automated magnetic-bead based concentration approach for viral detection in sewage that can effectively be scaled up for processing 24 samples in a single 40-minute run. The method compared favorably to conventionally used methods for viral wastewater concentrations with a limit of detection of 8.809 viral gene copies/ml from input sample volumes as low as 10ml and can enable the processing of over 100 wastewater samples in a day.

- 1 Aliquot **10 mL** of raw sewage (no pre-filtering step required) into two wells of the KingFisher 24 deep-well plate (Cat# 95040470, Thermo Fisher). Each well should have **5 mL** of the raw sewage sample. For instance, **5 mL** of sample PL09 should be filled in A1 of plate 1 and **5 mL** in A1 of plate 2.



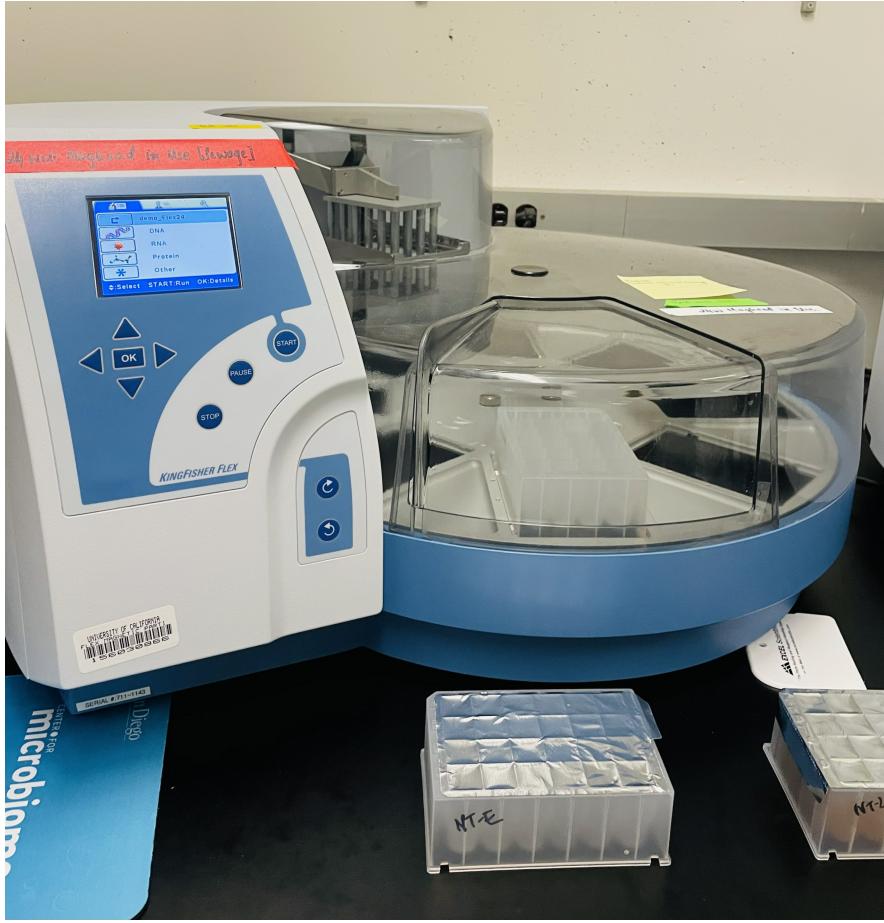
Raw, unfiltered sewage

- 2 **Nanotrap Magnetic Virus Particles (10) Ceres** Add **75 µl** of **Nano Catalog #44202** to each of the wells containing the raw sewage sample.



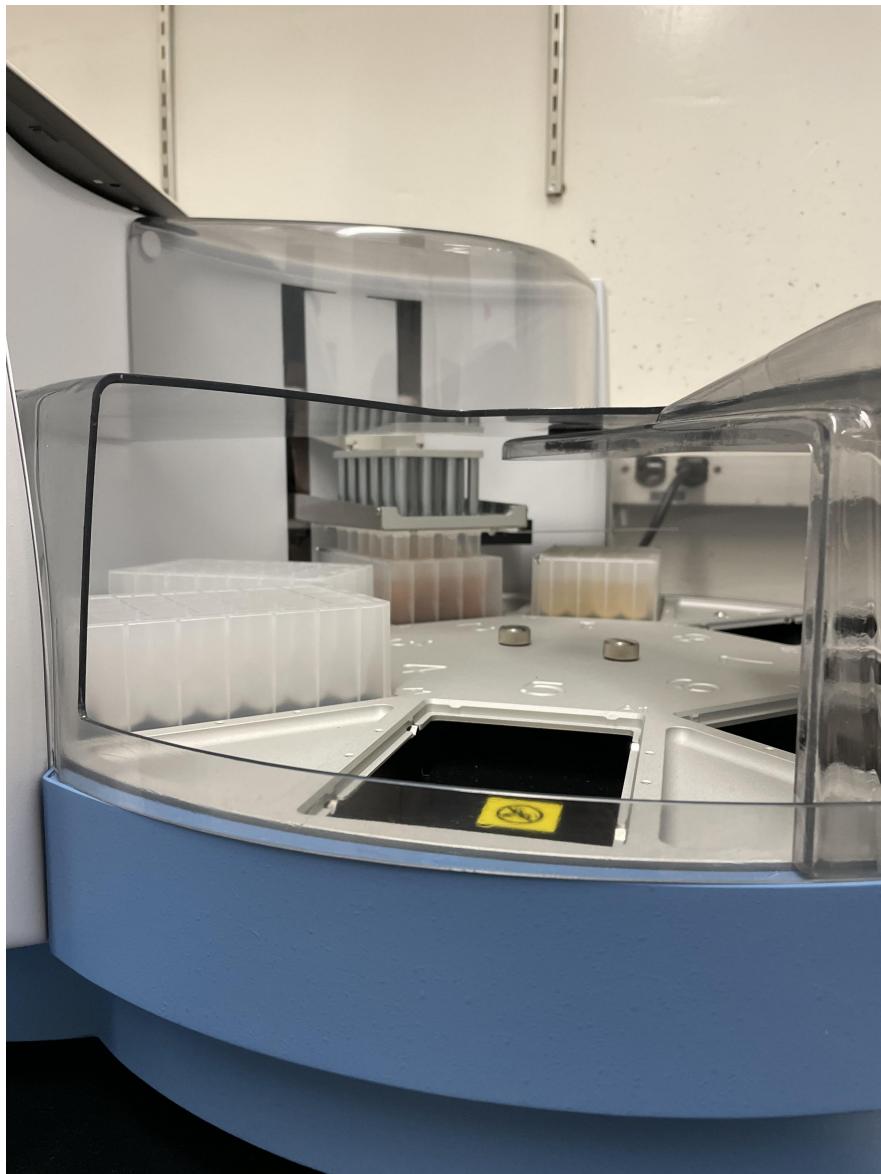
Plate 1: 5ml sample+ 75uL magnetic beads

- 3 Prepare the elution plate: Add **150  $\mu$ l** of 1X PBS and **800  $\mu$ l** of the 5m  
**MagMAX® Microbiome Lysis Solution Thermo**  
**Fisher Catalog #A42361** to each of the wells of the 24  
deep-well plate.
- 4 Load the 3 plates into a KingFisher™ Flex Automated Nucleic Acid Purification system fitted with a 24 Deep-Well Head  
for KingFisher™ Flex Magnetic Particle Purification System (Cat. # 5400630 and 5400640).



- 5 Download the program for the KingFisher Platform for the automated processing of 24 samples:

[NanoTrap\\_Flex24\\_V1ck.bdz](#) and load the program on the equipment using the BindIt Software (Cat. # [5189009](#)).



- 6 Once loaded, follow the steps on the protocol to load the 3 plates into the system for extraction.

1h

Protocol summary NanoTrap_Flex24_48_Samples			
Layout	Tips	24 DW plate	
	Sample 1	24 DW plate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Sample 2	24 DW plate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Elution	24 DW plate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Sample 3	24 DW plate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Sample 4	24 DW plate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Elution 2	24 DW plate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Tips2	24 DW plate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steps	Bind sample 1, Drop Beads into Sample 2, Collect Remainder of Beads Sample 1, Bind Sample 2, Drop Beads into Elution, Collect Remainder of Beads Sample 2, Elution, Rinse beads into Sample 2, Collect leftover Beads from Elution, Mix1, Mix2, CollectBeads1, Mix3, Mix4, CollectBeads2, Mix5, Mix6, CollectBeads3		

The protocol provided here includes an extended incubation step which can be reduced by half depending on the sample volume. The above protocol can also be increased for processing 48 samples.

- 7 The program processes the samples from the 2 sample plates and elutes the concentrated viral RNA into a single elution plate containing the lysis buffer.

The Lysis buffer can vary depending on the Nucleic extraction kit used.

- 8 Nucleic acid extraction can then be performed using the 36m  
[!\[\]\(756219e9389f679d57027482aa5cf5fc\_img.jpg\) MagMAX® Microbiome Ultra Nucleic Acid Isolation Kit, with bead plate Thermo Fisher Catalog #A42357](#)

The downstream extraction can be performed with any kit of choice. Here the MagMAX kit was used due to ease of integration into the KingFisher Flex system.