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# VOC and VOI (SARS-Cov-2) identification by Sanger Sequencing V.2

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[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.ewov1nxqkgr2/v2](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.ewov1nxqkgr2/v2)

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The method hereby described is an update of a rapid and accessible protocol based on Sanger sequencing that is able to discriminate the main SARS-CoV-2 VOCs (Variants of Concern) and VOIs (Variants of Interest), according to each characteristic mutational signature at the Spike receptor binding domain (RBD) and an additional mutational profile of the N-terminal domain (NTD) of the Spike protein. Although this approach does not substitute whole-genome sequencing, in a scenario that combines the rapid spread of new VOCs around the world with supply shortages and lack of technical infrastructure, it represents a powerful tool that allows a broader network of laboratories to perform molecular surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 VOCs, improving its capacity to report more results within in a timely manner.

DOI

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**protocols.io**<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.ewov1nxqkgr2/v2>

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genotyping, RNA virus, Spike protein, molecular assay, screening



\_\_\_\_\_ protocol ,

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cDNA Synthesis 2h 15m

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The cDNA was prepared according to the manufacturer's instructions: High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit

[Applied Biosystems™ High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit](#) **Applied Biosystems Catalog #4368814**

Mix the following components in an 0.2mL 8-strip tube or 96 well PCR plate;

Component	Value
10X RT Buffer	2.0 µL
dNTP Mix (100mM)	0.8 µL
10X RT Random primers	2.0 µL
MultiScribe Reverse Transcriptase	1.0 µL
H <sub>2</sub> O	4.2 µL
Template RNA	10.0 µL
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.0 µL</b>

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2h 15m

Incubate the reaction as follows:

Time	Temperature
------	-------------

🕒 00:10:00 at 🌡 25 °C

🕒 02:00:00 at 🌡 37 °C ,

🕒 00:05:00 at 🌡 85 °C

Hold at 🌡 4 °C

### Primers sequences

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Primer sets targeting the Spike residue binding domain (RBD).

A	B	C	D
Primer set	Flanked region*	Amplicon	Covered mutations
Artic primers 76 Left 5'-AGGGCAAAGTGGAAAGATTGCT-3' 77 Right 5'-CAGCCCCTATTAAACAGCCTGC-3'	22819-23500	725 bp	N439K, L452R/Q, Y453F, S477N, T478K, E484K/Q, S494P, N501Y/T/S, A570D, D614G
In house 1MS Fw 5'-TAACGCCACCAGATTTGCAT-3' 2MS Rv 5'-ACACGCCAAGTAGGAGTAAGT-3'	22607-23446	878 bp	K417T/N, N439K, L452R/Q, Y453F, S477N, T478K, E484K/Q, S494P, N501Y/T/S, A570D, D614G

\*not including the primer binding site.

Primer set targeting the Spike N-terminal domain (NTD).

A	B	C	D
Primer set	Flanked region*	Amplicon	Covered mutations
Artic primers 71 Left 5'-ACAAATCCAATTCAGTTGTCTTCCTATTC-3' 73 Right 5'-CACCAGCTGTCCAACCTGAAGA-3'	21386-22324	989 bp	Δ69-70/144-145, Δ157-158, 241-243, S13I, L18F, T19R, T20N, P26S, Q52R, A67V, V70F, G75V, T76I, D80A, T95I, D138Y, W152C, E156G, R190S, D215G, A222V, W258L.










\*not including the primer binding site.

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The PCR was performed under conditions standardized using the












[Taq Platinum DNA Polymerase](#) **Invitrogen - Thermo Fisher**

Mix the following components in an 0.2mL 8-strip tube or 96 well PCR plate;

Component	Value
10x Buffer	 2.5 µL
MgCl <sub>2</sub>	 0.5 µL
dNTP (10 mM)	 1.0 µL
Forward primer (10uM)	 0.5 µL
Reverse primer (10uM)	 0.5 µL
Taq Polymerase	 0.25 µL
H <sub>2</sub> O	 18.25 µL
cDNA input	 1.5 µL
<b>Total</b>	 25 µL

5 Incubate the reaction as follows:

11m 55s

Step	Time	Temperature	Cycle
Initial denaturation	 00:05:00	 98 °C	1x
Denaturation	 00:00:30	 98 °C	35x
Annealing	 00:00:35	 59 °C	35x
Extension	 00:00:50	 72 °C	35x
Final extension	 00:05:00	 72 °C	1x
Hold	Indefinite	 4 °C	

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- Agarose gel was prepared at **0.1 mg/mL** and stained with Sybr Safe (Sigma-Aldrich).

- PCR products was quantified using

Nanodrop 2000C

Thermo Scientific TSC-ND2000C

(1uL per sample) and diluted to a final concentration of 30 ng/uL.

- Sequencing reaction is performed with BigDye Terminator v3.1 (Applied Biosystems) and run in capillary electrophoresis (ABI 3500, Applied Biosystems), according to the manufacturer's instructions.