

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_128_21

You asked:

1. What Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) equipment is being used by you to detect SAR-CoV-2?

Our laboratory uses several analysers for SARS-CoV-2 detection. Seegene Nimbus, BioRad C1000 thermocycler, Perkin Elmer Prepito x2, QuantStudio5, Cepheid Genexpert, Biomerieux BioFire, GenMark ePlex. POCT testing uses Roche Liat.

2. Who manufactures the PCR testing kit(s) (as distinct from equipment) being used?

Seegene Allplex, Anatolia Geneworks, Cepheid, Biomerieux, Genmark, Roche.

3. How many cycles (Ct/Cq) are used for your PCR assays?

It varies, we have many tests in use. Some tests do not give Ct values and the number of cycles used are set by the manufacturer in the software. We follow the method/manufacture usage instructions that are part of the CE marking for the test.

4. Have you received guidance from Government sources or administrative bodies regarding the PCR equipment and test settings that you should use for Covid-19 assays?

No, we use the kits as they are intended to be used as specified by the manufacturer. As an accredited laboratory we have to use the tests as specified when the test was CE marked.

Public Health Wales (PHW) provide guidance on the advisory comments we append to the test results which give clinical advice to the requestor on the significance of the result.