

## INTENDED USE

The **Human Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Virus Nucleoprotein [NP] IgM ELISA Kit** is an immunoassay suitable for quantifying IgM antibody activity specific for nucleoprotein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, etiologic agent for the **COVID-19** respiratory disease, in serum or plasma of vaccinated, immunized and/or infected hosts.

This immunoassay is suitable for:

- Determining **immune status** relative to non-immune controls;
- Assessing efficacy of **vaccines**, including dosage, adjuvantcy, route of immunization, and timing;
- Qualifying and standardizing vaccine batches & protocols

The assay is for research use only (RUO) and is not intended nor validated for diagnosing SARS-CoV-2 virus disease. Reagents contain no virus or viral antigens.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**SARS-CoV-2 virus** (SARS-CoV-2), is a novel coronavirus emerged as a human respiratory pathogen and causing the 2020 pandemic named **COVID-19**. The **SARS-CoV-2** genome is closely related to 2 bat-derived severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)-like coronaviruses (88% identity) and more distantly from 2 other human pathogenic coronaviruses, **SARS-CoV** (~79% identity) and **MERS-CoV** (~50% identity).

The genome of the coronavirus encodes 23 putative proteins including 4 major structural proteins: nucleocapsid [**N** protein], spike [**S** protein], membrane [**M**] and small envelope proteins [**E**]. The **S protein** is a glycoprotein essential for viral attachment to the host cell surface receptors and translocation into the infected cells; trimers of the S protein make up the spikes of the virus. The S protein is cleaved in host cells into S1 and S2 subunits; S1 protein binds the host receptor, while S2 mediates membrane fusion. A minimal receptor-binding domain [RBD] located in the S1 protein (aa. 318-510) can combine with the ACE2 receptor on host epithelial cells. While the S1 subunit of **SARS-CoV-2** shares around 70% identity to that of the 2 bat SARS-like CoVs and human SARS-CoV, the core domains of RBD (excluding the external subdomain) are highly conserved.

Recombinant proteins of SARS spike protein have shown to be highly immunogenic as vaccines and produce neutralizing antibodies. Therefore, the spike proteins represent candidates for effective vaccine development.

## PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

The **Anti-SARS-CoV-2 NP IgM ELISA** kits are based on the binding of antibodies (IgM) in samples to the recombinant, purified SARS-CoV-2 NP antigen immobilized on the microwells. Bound antibody is detected by anti-human IgM-HRP conjugate. After a washing step, chromogenic substrate (TMB) is added and color is developed by the HRP substrate, which is directly proportional to the amount of anti-SARS-CoV-2 NP IgM present in the sample. Stop Solution is added to terminate the reaction, and absorbance is then measured using an ELISA reader at 450nm. The presence of antibody (IgM) in samples is determined relative to anti-SARS NP Calibrators.

## KIT CONTENTS

The microtiter well plate and all other reagents, if unopened, are stable at 2-8° C until the expiration date printed on the box label. Stabilities of the working solutions are indicated under Reagent Preparation.

**To Be Reconstituted:** Store as indicated.

Component	Preparation Instructions
<b>Wash Solution Concentrate (100x)</b> Cat. No. WB-100, 10ml	Dilute the entire volume 10ml + 990ml with distilled or deionized water into a clean stock bottle. Label as <b>Working Wash Solution</b> and store at 2-8° C for long term and ambient temperature for short term.
<b>Sample Diluent Concentrate (20x)</b> Cat. No. SD-20T, 10ml	Dilute the entire volume, 10ml + 190ml with distilled or deionized water into a clean stock bottle. Label as <b>Working Sample/Conjugate Diluent</b> and store at 2-8° C until the kit lot expires or is used up.
<b>Anti-Human IgM-HRP Conjugate Concentrate (100x)</b> Part: H-HuM.2a11, 0.15ml	Peroxidase conjugated anti-human IgM in buffer with detergents and antimicrobial as stabilizers. Dilute fresh as needed; 10ul of concentrate to 1 ml of <b>Working Sample/Conjugate Diluent</b> is sufficient for 1 8-well strip. Use within the working day and discard. Return 100X to 2-8°C storage.

**Ready To Use:** Store as indicated on labels.

Component	Part	Amt	Contents
<b>SARS-CoV-2 NP Coated Strip Plate</b>	405101	8-well strips (12)	Coated with purified recombinant SARS-CoV-2 NP, and post-coated with stabilizers.
<b>Anti-SARS NP Calibrators</b>			
1 U/ml	405102B	0.65 ml	Four (4) vials, each containing anti-SARS NP; in buffer with antimicrobial as stabilizers.
2.5 U/ml	405102C	0.65 ml	
5 U/ml	405102D	0.65 ml	
10 U/ml	405102E	0.65 ml	
<b>Anti-SARS NP Positive Control</b>	405102-PC	0.65 ml	Antiserum with anti-SARS NP activity; [value range on label]
<b>Low NSB Sample Diluent (LNSD)</b>	TBTm  Reduces non-specific binding	30 ml	Buffer with protein, detergents and antimicrobial.  Use as is for sample dilution. See <b>Assay Design</b> , page 3.
<b>TMB Substrate</b>	80091	12 ml	Chromogenic substrate for HRP containing TMB and peroxide.
<b>Stop Solution</b>	80101	12 ml	Dilute sulfuric acid.

**Materials Required and Not Provided:**

- Pipettors and pipettes that deliver 100ul and 1-10ml.
- Disposable glass or plastic 5-15ml tubes for diluting samples and Anti-Human IgM HRP Concentrate.
- Stock bottle to store diluted Wash Solution; 0.2 to 1L.
- Distilled or deionized water to dilute reagent concentrates.
- Microwell plate reader at 450 nm wavelength and ELISA plate washer

## ASSAY DESIGN AND SET-UP

### Sample Collection and Handling

Serum and other biological fluids may be used as samples with proper dilution to avoid solution matrix interference. For **serum**, collect blood by venipuncture, allow clotting, and separate the serum by centrifugation at room temperature. If samples will not be assayed immediately, store refrigerated for up to a few weeks, or frozen for long-term storage.

### Antibody Stability & Dilution

Initial dilution of serum into **Working Sample Diluent** (WSD) is recommended to stabilize antibody activity. This enhances reproducible sampling, and stabilizes the antibody activity for years, stored refrigerated or frozen. Further dilution into **Low NSB Sample Diluent** (LNSD), which provides the lowest assay background, should be at least 10 times the initial dilution and performed the same day as the assay.  
Example: Initial (1:5): **10ul** serum + **40ul** WSD [or 0.1ml + 0.4ml]  
Further (1:50): **10ul** initial (1:5) + **90ul** LNSD (1:50)

### Assay Design

Review Interpretation of Results (p5-7) before proceeding:

- Select the proper sample dilutions accounting for expected potency of positives and minimizing non-specific binding (NSB) and other matrix effects; for example, net signal for non-immune samples should be lower than the **1 U/ml Calibrator**. This is usually 1:200 or greater dilution for human serum with normal levels of IgG and IgM.
- Run the **Anti-SARS NP Positive Control**; value range is on the vial label.
- Run a Sample Diluent **Blank**. This signal is an indicator of proper assay performance, especially of washing efficacy, and is used for net OD calculations, if required. Blank OD should be <0.3.
- Run a set of **Calibrators**, which validate that the assay was performed to specifications: **10 U/ml** should give a high signal (>1.5 OD); **1 U/ml** should give a low signal which can be used to discriminate at the Positive/Negative threshold (see Interpretation of Results, p. 5).
- Run a range of sample dilutions for expected higher positives that allows calculation of antibody **Titer** (when specific titer is at least 4-fold higher than non-immune). **See Method C**.
- Run samples in duplicate if used for quantitation; non-immunes that are significantly lower than immunes may be run in singlicate. The Calibrators that are used for quantitation, e.g., for between-assay normalization, should be run in duplicate. When determining titer from a dilution curve, singlicates can be run if more than two dilution points are used for titer calculations.

### Plate Set-up

Bring all reagents to room temperature (18-30° C) equilibration (at least 30 minutes).

- Determine the number of wells for the assay run. Duplicates are recommended, including 8 Calibrator wells and 2 wells for each sample control to be assayed.
- Remove the appropriate number of microwell strips from the pouch and return unused strips to the pouch. Reseal the pouch and store refrigerated.
- Add 200-300ul Working Wash Solution to each well and let stand for about 5 minutes. Aspirate or dump the liquid and pat dry on a paper towel before sample addition.

## Assay Procedure

ALL STEPS ARE PERFORMED AT ROOM TEMPERATURE. After each reagent addition, gently tap the plate to mix the well contents prior to beginning incubation.

- 1st Incubation [100ul – 60 min; 4 washes]**
  - Add 100ul of calibrators, samples and controls each to pre-determined wells.
  - Tap the plate gently to mix reagents and incubate for 60 minutes.
  - Wash wells 4 times and pat dry on fresh paper towels. As an alternative, an automatic plate washer may be used. Improper washes may lead to falsely elevated signals and poor reproducibility.
- 2nd Incubation [100ul – 30 min; 5 washes]**
  - Add 100ul of diluted Anti-Human IgM HRP to each well.
  - Incubate for 30 minutes.
  - Wash wells 5 times as in step 2.
- Substrate Incubation [100ul – 15 min]**
  - Add 100ul TMB Substrate to each well. The liquid in the wells will begin to turn blue.
  - Incubate for 15 minutes in the dark, e.g., place in a drawer or closet.

Note: If your microplate reader does not register optical density (OD) above 2.0, incubate for less time, or read OD at 405-410 nm (results are valid).
- Stop Step [Stop: 100ul]**
  - Add 100ul of Stop Solution to each well.
  - Tap gently to mix. The enzyme reaction will stop; liquid in the wells will turn yellow.
- Absorbance Reading**
  - Use any commercially available microplate reader capable of reading at 450nm wavelength. Use a program suitable for obtaining OD readings, and data calculations if available.
  - Read absorbance of the entire plate at 450nm using a single wavelength within 30 minutes after Stop Solution addition. If available, program to subtract OD at 630nm to normalize well background.

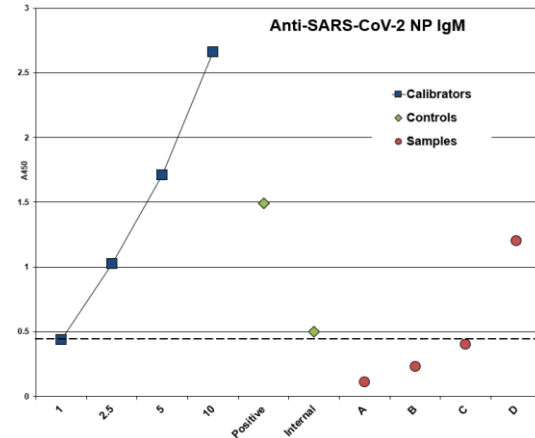
## INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

### Method A. Antibody Activity Threshold Index

Compare Samples to 1 U/ml Calibrator or Internal Control

=Positive/Negative Cut-off.

#### Example:



#### Results

The **sensitivity** of the assay to detect anti-SARS-CoV-2 NP IgM, from either natural exposure or vaccination, is controlled so that the **1 U/ml Calibrator** represents a threshold OD for most true positives in human serum diluted to 1:200 or greater. Visual inspection of the data in the above graph shows the following:

**Calibrators** – dilution curve of an anti-SARS NP antibody, derived from NP immunization, shows the OD range of the assay; high value indicates optimal sensitivity of the assay.

**1 U/ml:** a 'Cut-off' line has been drawn to indicate a threshold distinguishing between **Positive/Negative**. This is not a clear-cut threshold, rather a low OD area that could represent either low positives or high background negatives.

**Positive Control** – antiserum reactive to SARS NP; value range is on the vial label. This Control can be used to assess reproducibility and to normalize between-assay variation.

**Internal Control** – a true positive from an immune human that represents the investigator's experience in distinguishing low positive from negative samples (not in kit). This should be run in each assay to supplement the 1 U/ml Calibrator for Positive/Negative discrimination purposes.

**Samples A,B,C,D** – 2 samples (A,B) are **negative**: below the threshold; 1 sample (D) is **positive**: clearly above the threshold; 1 sample (C) is borderline.

The **1 U/ml Calibrator** can be used to calculate a **Threshold Index** that numerically discriminates Positive/Negative (see p6):

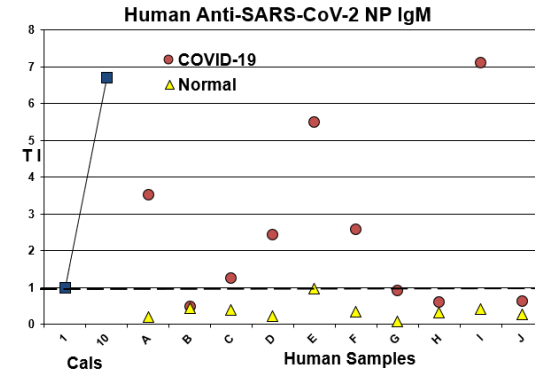
- ❖ Divide each Sample net OD by the 1 U/ml Calibrator net OD. Values above 1.0 are a measure of **Positive** Antibody Activity; below 1.0 is **Negative** for antibody.

## ASSAY PERFORMANCE

#### Example:

### Human Serum/Plasma IgM

Panels of sera from a) COVID-19 patients, and b) normal donors of unknown history were tested for anti-SARS-CoV-2 NP IgM (1:200 dilution in Low NSB Sample Diluent). **Threshold Index** was calculated using the 1 U/ml Cal.



#### Results

**Anti-SARS-CoV-2 NP IgM:** a) 6 sera from **COVID-19** were positive, 3 were negative & 1 borderline; b) all normal sera were negative, with 1 borderline at 1:200 dilution.

#### Notes:

- Positives** may be due to prior encounter with the virus or non-SARS-CoV-2 proteins with common epitopes; or may be an aspect of the innate immune repertoire.
- When the **Positive Index** is **above 5.0**, using a dilution curve to calculate titer is a more accurate quantitation method (see Method C).
- The **sensitivity** of the assay may be adjusted by changing the sample dilutions: a) increase dilution (e.g., 1:400) to lower the signals of borderline samples to negative; b) decrease dilution (e.g., 1:100) to convert borderline samples to positive. With the latter, the values of negatives may increase, so an alternative threshold should be considered using known negatives to develop a **Positive Index** (see below) or use an **Internal Control** (Page 5).

### B. Positive Index

Experimental sample values may be expressed relative to the values of Control or Non-immune samples, by calculation of a **Positive Index**. One typical method is as follows:

- Calculate the net OD mean + 2 SD of the Control/Non-immune samples = **Positive Index**.
- Divide each sample net OD by the Positive Index. Values above 1.0 are a measure of **Positive** Antibody Activity; below 1.0 is **Negative** for antibody.

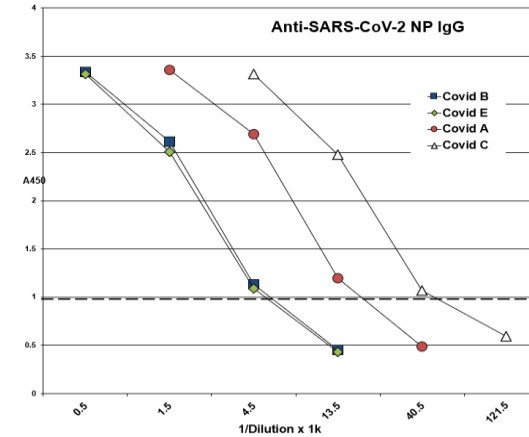
A sample value would be **Positive** if significantly above the value of the pre-immune serum sample or a suitably determined non-immune panel or pool of samples, tested at the same sample dilution.

This calculation also **quantifies** the positive Antibody Activity level, assigning a higher value to samples with higher Antibody Activity, and vice versa.

## INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS (cont)

### C. Antibody Titer

The most accurate method for comparing antibody potencies is by calculation of a titer, using an OD reading in linear range of dilution curves of each antibody as **Index**. In the example below, **IgG** titers were calculated as inverse of the dilution that produced a **1.0 OD** in the assay.



#### Results

**COVID-19 B:** serum from individual day 14 after testing PCR-positive for SARS-CoV-2; Titer: **5.5 k**

**COVID-19 E:** serum from individual day 26 after testing PCR-positive for SARS-CoV-2; Titer: **5.2 k**

**COVID-19 A:** serum from individual day 36 after testing PCR-positive for SARS-CoV-2; Titer: **18.1 k**

**COVID-19 C:** serum from individual day 17 after testing PCR-positive for SARS-CoV-2; Titer: **46.8 k**

## PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

### Specificity

Recombinant SARS-CoV-2 NP protein, 430 aa/ 47.08 kDa, was expressed as His-tag fusion protein in baculovirus-insect cells, purified and coated on microwells; stabilizing postcoat contains BSA. The Anti-Human IgM HRP conjugate is specific for IgM; IgG, IgA and IgE class antibodies would not be detected above background.

### Sensitivity

The SARS NP-coated plate, anti-human IgM-HRP concentration, and Low NSB Sample Diluent are optimized to differentiate anti-SARS NP IgM from background (non-antibody) signal with human serum/plasma samples diluted 1:200.

## PRECAUTIONS AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Calibrators, Sample Diluent, and Antibody HRP contain bromonitrodioxane (BND: 0.05%, w/v). Stop Solution contains dilute sulfuric acid. Follow good laboratory practices, and avoid ingestion or contact of any reagent with skin, eyes or mucous membranes. All reagents may be disposed of down a drain with copious amounts of water. MSDS for TMB, sulfuric acid and BND can be requested or obtained from the ADI website: [http://4adi.com/commerce/info/showpage.jsp?page\\_id=1060&category\\_id=2430&visit=10](http://4adi.com/commerce/info/showpage.jsp?page_id=1060&category_id=2430&visit=10)

# Recombivirus™ Human Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Virus (COVID-19) Nucleoprotein IgM ELISA Kit

Catalog # RV-405110, 96 tests

For the Detection and Quantitation of  
Anti-SARS-CoV-2 NP IgM in Serum or  
Plasma

For research use only, not for diagnostic or therapeutic use.



**ALPHA DIAGNOSTIC  
INTERNATIONAL**

6203 Woodlake Center Drive • San Antonio • Texas 78244 • USA.

Phone (210) 561-9515 • Fax (210) 561-9544  
Toll Free (800) 786-5777

[service@4adi.com](mailto:service@4adi.com)  
[www.4adi.com](http://www.4adi.com)

ELISA Kit Components	Amount	Part
SARS-CoV-2 NP Coated Strip Plate	8-well strip (12)	405101
Anti-SARS NP Positive Control	0.65 ml	405102PC
Anti-SARS NP Calibrator	1 U/ml 0.65 ml	405102B
Anti-SARS NP Calibrator	2.5 U/ml 0.65 ml	405102C
Anti-SARS NP Calibrator	5 U/ml 0.65 ml	405102D
Anti-SARS NP Calibrator	10 U/ml 0.65 ml	405102E
Anti-Human IgM HRP Conjugate (100X)	0.15 ml	H-HuM.2a11
Sample Diluent (20x)	10 ml	SD20T
Low NSB Sample Diluent	30 ml	TBTm
Wash Solution Concentrate (100X)	10 ml	WB-100
TMB Substrate	12 ml	80091
Stop Solution	12 ml	80101
Product Manual	1	RV-405110