



Medical Laboratory Testing

3548 Meridian Street, Suite 101, Bellingham, WA 98225

360.527.5480 | www.nwlaboratory.com

NWL COVID Testing: Northwest Laboratory has validated a SARS CoV2 (COVID-19) assay based on the FDA-approved ThermoFisher RT-PCR assay. This is a robust assay that detects three different genes in the SARS CoV2 viral genome. The amplification of three different genes ensures that the assay is able to detect any variants that may arise as the virus evolves. The assay also incorporates an internal RNA control, to ensure integrity of the entire testing process, so that negative results can be confidently reported as negative.

Sensitivity: Sensitivity cannot be calculated at this point, because the sensitivity of a test is typically calculated based on a gold standard. In this case, an RT-PCR assay such as this one is considered the gold standard, as this type of assay is typically regarded as the most sensitive type of assay available. Limiting dilution experiments performed at NWL detected the virus with sample dilutions of 10,000- to 1,000,000-fold dilution with a typical positive sample. Limit of detection analysis performed by Thermo-Fisher showed that the assay can detect as few as 10 copies of viral RNA present in both upper and lower respiratory tract specimens.

Specificity: The assay does not cross react with other known Coronaviruses or with other viruses or bacterial organisms. A positive result is diagnostic of SARS CoV2 being present in the sample.