

Primer Design Ltd

R01016

# Influenza A virus subtype H5N8 (avian influenza)

**Kit version: 2**

Haemagglutinin gene

Neuraminidase gene

genesig<sup>®</sup> Standard Kit

150 tests

GENESIG

Kits by Primerdesign

**Specificity of primers and probes last reviewed on:**  
16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

For general laboratory and research use only

# Introduction to Influenza A virus subtype H5N8

Influenza type A viruses are 80–120 nanometers in diameter and usually roughly spherical, made up of a viral envelope containing two main types of proteins, wrapped around a central core. The two large proteins found on the outside of viral particles are haemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA). HA is a protein that mediates binding of the virion to target cells and entry of the viral genome into the target cell, while NA is involved in the release of progeny virions from infected cells. Influenza type A viruses are categorized into subtypes based on the type of these two proteins on the surface of the viral envelope. The central core of a virion contains the viral genome and other viral proteins that package and protect the genetic material. The entire Influenza A virus genome is ~13,588 bases long and is contained on 8 RNA segments that code for 11 proteins.

Avian Influenza ('avian flu' or 'bird flu') strains all belong to the Influenza A virus which are generally adapted to birds but not exclusive to them. Of particular concern to humans are ones which are infectious to both humans and birds. Specific strains such as H1N1 have been the subject of much media concern and speculation over pandemics and its widespread transmission globally. Only two influenza A virus subtypes A(H1N1)pdm09, and A(H3N2), are currently circulating among people.

Since 2016, H5N8 has been spreading rapidly through migration of wild birds in Europe and Asia, causing deaths in the wild bird population and domestic poultry. An outbreak of H5N8 in Russia was confirmed by WHO in 2020, with the virus also detected in poultry or wild birds in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, and the United Kingdom. There is a low possibility of human infection with H5N8, however, it should not be excluded as infections in seven humans were reported by Russia in 2021, the first confirmed cases of H5N8 in humans as a result to the 2020 outbreak.

# Specificity

The Primerdesign™ genesig® Kit for Influenza A virus subtype H5N8 (avian influenza) is designed for the in vitro detection and quantification of H5N8 genomes. The kit is designed to have a broad detection profile. Specifically, the primers will detect over 95% of the sequences on the GISAID EpiFlu database, identified as H5N8 from avian origin and collected within the three years to the time of the most recent review. Due to the sequence evolution observed in the genomes of RNA viruses, a period of three years is considered an adequate time period for analysis.

The H5 primer and probe set is designed to detect all relevant H5 sequences from the H5N8 lineage but may cross react with H5 sequences from other subtypes.

The N8 primer and probe set is designed to detect all relevant N8 sequences from the H5N8 lineage but may cross react with N8 sequences from other subtypes.

The dynamics of genetic variation mean that new sequence information may become available after the most recent review. Primer Design Ltd periodically reviews the detection profiles of our kits and when required releases new versions.

If you require further information or have a specific question about the detection profile of this kit, then please send an e-mail to [techsupport@primerdesign.co.uk](mailto:techsupport@primerdesign.co.uk) and our team will answer your question.

# Kit contents

- H5(H5N8) specific primer/probe mix (150 reactions **BROWN**)  
FAM labelled
- N8(H5N8) specific primer/probe mix (150 reactions **BROWN**)  
FAM labelled
- H5(H5N8) positive control template (**RED**)
- N8(H5N8) positive control template (**RED**)
- RNase/DNase free water (**WHITE**)  
for resuspension of primer/probe mixes
- 2x Template preparation buffer (**YELLOW**)  
for resuspension of positive control template and standard curve preparation

## Reagents and equipment to be supplied by the user

### Real-time PCR Instrument

#### Extraction kit

This kit is recommended for use with genesig® Easy DNA/RNA Extraction kit. However, it is designed to work well with all processes that yield high quality RNA and DNA with minimal PCR inhibitors.

#### oasig™ Iyophilised OneStep or Precision® PLUS OneStep 2X RT-qPCR Master Mix

This kit is intended for use with oasig™ Iyophilised OneStep or Precision® PLUS OneStep 2X RT-qPCR Master Mix

#### Pipettors and filter tips

#### Vortex and centrifuge

#### 1.5 ml tubes, qPCR plates or tubes

## Kit storage and stability

This kit is stable at room temperature but should be stored at -20°C on arrival. Once the lyophilised components have been resuspended, they should not be exposed to temperatures above -20°C for longer than 30 minutes at a time and unnecessary repeated freeze/thawing should be avoided. The kit is stable for six months from the date of resuspension under these circumstances.

If a standard curve dilution series is prepared this can be stored frozen for an extended period. If you see any degradation in this serial dilution a fresh standard curve can be prepared from the positive control.

Primerdesign™ does not recommend using the kit after the expiry date stated on the pack.

## Suitable sample material

All kinds of sample material suited for PCR amplification can be used. Please ensure the samples are suitable in terms of purity, concentration, and RNA integrity. Always run at least one negative control with the samples. To prepare a negative control, replace the template RNA sample with RNase/DNase free water.

## Dynamic range of test

Under optimal PCR conditions the kit can achieve priming efficiencies between 90-110% and detect less than 100 copies of target template. If running a positive control standard curve for a quantitative result, and an efficiency of between 90% to 110% is not achieved, then the run should be repeated with a freshly prepared standard curve.

## Notices and disclaimers

This product is developed, designed, and sold for research purposes only. It is not intended for human diagnostic or drug purposes or to be administered to humans unless clearly expressed for that purpose by the Food and Drug Administration in the USA or the appropriate regulatory authorities in the country of use. During the warranty period Primerdesign™ genesig® detection kits allow precise and reproducible data recovery combined with excellent sensitivity. For data obtained by violation to the general GLP guidelines and the manufacturer's recommendations the right to claim under guarantee is expired. PCR is a proprietary technology covered by several US and foreign patents. These patents are owned by Roche Molecular Systems Inc. and have been sub-licensed by PE Corporation in certain fields. Depending on your specific application you may need a license from Roche or PE to practice PCR. Additional information on purchasing licenses to practice the PCR process may be obtained by contacting the Director of Licensing at Roche Molecular Systems, 1145 Atlantic Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501 or Applied Biosystems business group of the Applied Biosystems Corporation, 850 Lincoln Centre Drive, Foster City, CA 94404. In addition, the 5' nuclease assay and other homogeneous amplification methods used in connection with the PCR process may be covered by U.S. Patents 5,210,015 and 5,487,972, owned by Roche Molecular Systems, Inc, and by U.S. Patent 5,538,848, owned by The Perkin-Elmer Corporation.

## Trademarks

PrecisionPLUS® is a registered trademark of Primer Design Ltd.

genesig® is a registered trademark of Primer Design Ltd.

oasig® is a registered trademark of Primer Design Ltd.

exsig®Mag is a registered trademark of Primer Design Ltd.

The PCR process is covered by US Patents 4,683,195, and 4,683,202 and foreign equivalents owned by Hoffmann-La Roche AG. TaqMan® is a registered trademark of Roche Molecular Systems, Inc., The purchase of the Primer Design Ltd reagents cannot be construed as an authorization or implicit license to practice PCR under any patents held by Hoffmann-La Roche Inc.

# Principles of the test

## Real-time PCR

H5N8 specific primer/probe mixes are provided, and these can be detected through the FAM channel.

The primer/probe mixes provided exploit the so-called TaqMan® principle. During PCR amplification, forward and reverse primers hybridize to the H5N8 cDNA. A fluorogenic probe is included in the same reaction mixture which consists of a DNA probe labeled with a 5`-dye and a 3`-quencher. During PCR amplification, the probe is cleaved, and the reporter dye and quencher are separated. The resulting increase in fluorescence can be detected on a range of qPCR platforms.

## Positive control

For copy number determination and as a positive control for the PCR set up, the kit contains positive control templates. This can be used to generate standard curves of H5N8 copy number/Cq value. Alternatively, the positive controls can be used at a single dilution where full quantitative analysis of the samples is not required. Each time the kit is used, at least one positive control reaction must be included in the run. A positive result indicates that the primers and probes for detecting the target H5N8 genes worked properly in that particular experimental scenario. If a negative result is obtained the test results are invalid and must be repeated. Care should be taken to ensure that the positive controls do not contaminate any other kit component which would lead to false-positive results. This can be achieved by handling this component in a Post PCR environment. Care should also be taken to avoid cross-contamination of other samples when adding the positive control to the run. This can be avoided by sealing all other samples and negative controls before pipetting the positive control into the positive control wells.

## Negative control

To validate any positive findings a negative control reaction should be included every time the kit is used. For this reaction the RNase/DNase free water should be used instead of template. A negative result indicates that the reagents have not become contaminated while setting up the run. It is also known as a No Template Control or NTC.

# Resuspension protocol

To minimize the risk of contamination with foreign RNA/DNA, we recommend that all pipetting be performed in a PCR clean environment. Ideally this would be a designated PCR lab or PCR cabinet. Filter tips are recommended for all pipetting steps.

**1. Pulse-spin each tube in a centrifuge before opening.**

This will ensure lyophilised primer probe mix or template is in the base of the tube and is not lost upon opening the tube.

**2. Resuspend the primer/probe mixes in the RNase/DNase free water supplied, according to the table below:**

To ensure complete resuspension, vortex each tube thoroughly.

Component - resuspend in water	Volume
<b>Pre-PCR pack</b>	
H5(H5N8) primer/probe mix (BROWN)	165 µl
N8(H5N8) primer/probe mix (BROWN)	165 µl

**3. Resuspend the positive control template in the template preparation buffer supplied, according to the table below:**

To ensure complete resuspension, vortex each tube thoroughly.

Component - resuspend in template preparation buffer	Volume
<b>Post-PCR heat-sealed foil</b>	
H5(H5N8) Positive Control Template (RED) *	500 µl
N8(H5N8) Positive Control Template (RED) *	500 µl

\* This component contains high copy number template and is a VERY significant contamination risk. It must be opened and handled in a separate laboratory environment, away from the other components.

# OneStep RT-qPCR detection protocol

## For optimum performance and sensitivity.

All pipetting steps and experimental plate set up should be performed on ice. After the plate is prepared proceed immediately to the OneStep amplification protocol. Prolonged incubation of reaction mixes at room temperature can lead to PCR artifacts that reduce the sensitivity of detection.

1. For each RNA sample prepare a reaction mix according to the table below:  
Include sufficient reactions for positive and negative controls.

Component	Volume
oasig™ OneStep or Precision®PLUS OneStep 2X RT-qPCR Master Mix	10 µl
H5(H5N8) or N8(H5N8) primer/probe mix (BROWN)	1 µl
RNase/DNase free water (WHITE)	4 µl
<b>Final Volume</b>	<b>15 µl</b>

2. Pipette 15µl of these mixes into each well according to your qPCR experimental plate set up.
3. Pipette 5µl of RNA template into each well, according to your experimental plate set up.  
For negative control wells use 5µl of RNase/DNase free water. The final volume in each well is 20µl.
4. If a standard curve is included for quantitative analysis prepare a reaction mix according to the table below:

Component	Volume
oasig™ OneStep or Precision®PLUS OneStep 2X RT-qPCR Master Mix	10 µl
H5(H5N8) or N8(H5N8) primer/probe mix (BROWN)	1 µl
RNase/DNase free water (WHITE)	4 µl
<b>Final Volume</b>	<b>15 µl</b>

5. Preparation of standard curve dilution series.

- 1) Pipette 90µl of template preparation buffer into 5 tubes and label 2-6
- 2) Pipette 10µl of Positive Control Template (RED) into tube 2
- 3) Vortex thoroughly
- 4) Change pipette tip and pipette 10µl from tube 2 into tube 3
- 5) Vortex thoroughly

Repeat steps 4 and 5 to complete the dilution series.



Standard Curve	Copy Number
Tube 1 Positive control (RED)	2 x 10 <sup>5</sup> per µl
Tube 2	2 x 10 <sup>4</sup> per µl
Tube 3	2 x 10 <sup>3</sup> per µl
Tube 4	2 x 10 <sup>2</sup> per µl
Tube 5	20 per µl
Tube 6	2 per µl

**6. Pipette 5µl of standard template into each well for the standard curve according to your plate set-up**

The final volume in each well is 20µl.

## OneStep RT-qPCR Amplification Protocol

Amplification conditions using oasig™ OneStep or Precision®PLUS OneStep 2X RT-qPCR Master Mix.

	Step	Time	Temp
	Reverse Transcription	10 min	55 °C
	Enzyme activation	2 min	95 °C
Cycling x50	Denaturation	10 s	95 °C
	<b>DATA COLLECTION *</b>	60 s	60 °C

\* Fluorogenic data should be collected during this step through the FAM channel.

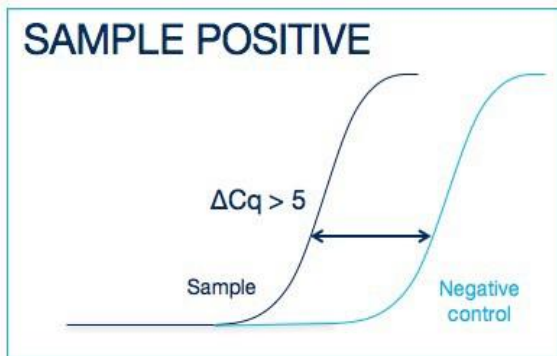
# Interpretation of results

H5 (H5N8) (FAM)	N8 (H5N8) (FAM)	*Positive control	Negative control	**Interpretation
+	-	+	-	<b>POSITIVE RESULT FOR H5</b>
-	+	+	-	<b>POSITIVE RESULT FOR N8</b>
+	+	+	-	<b>POSITIVE RESULT FOR H5N8</b>
-	-	+	-	<b>NEGATIVE RESULT</b>
+ / -	+ / -	+	≤ 35	<b>EXPERIMENT FAILED</b> due to test contamination
+ / -	+ / -	+	> 35	***
+ / -	+ / -	-	+ / -	<b>EXPERIMENT FAILED</b>

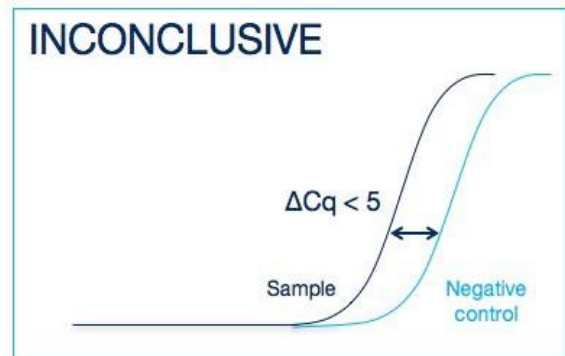
\*Positive control template (**RED**) is expected to amplify between Cq 16 and 23. Failure to satisfy this quality control criterion is a strong indication that the experiment has been compromised.

\*\*If a sample is positive for H5 but negative for N8, this could be due to the presence of another subtype that contains H5. Conversely if a sample is positive for N8 but negative for H5, this could be due to the presence of another subtype that contains N8. A sample is confirmed as H5N8 if both targets (FAM) are positive.

\*\*\*Where the test sample is positive and the negative control is positive with a Cq > 35, the sample must be reinterpreted based on the relative signal strength of the two results:



If the sample amplifies > 5 Cq earlier than the negative control, then the sample should be reinterpreted (via the table above) with the negative control verified as negative.



If the sample amplifies < 5 Cq earlier than the negative control, then the positive sample result is invalidated, and the result should be determined inconclusive due to test contamination. The test for this sample should be repeated.

# Disposal Considerations

Dispose of tested samples according to any local, national or regional regulations.

Product: Offer surplus and non-recyclable solutions to a licensed disposal company.

Contaminated packaging: Dispose of as unused product.