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ASIA EDITION

Singapore approves TaqPath COVID-19 combo kit

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This real-time PCR kit can be used for the presumptive qualitative detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2 in three types of patient samples.

The Applied Biosystems™ TaqPath™ COVID-19 Combo Kit has received Provisional Authorisation from the Health Science Authority (HSA) in Singapore.

In response to the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) outbreak, Thermo Fisher Scientific has worked rapidly to develop a new multiplex real-time RT-PCR diagnostic kit to enable clinical and public health laboratories to quickly diagnose COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2 infection. The Applied Biosystems TaqPath COVID-19 Combo Kit is a fast, highly sensitive multiplex diagnostic solution that contains both the assays and controls needed for the real-time PCR detection of RNA from the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

The kit can be used by clinical and public health laboratories to quickly evaluate up to 94 patient specimens in under 3 hours. The kit is approved for use with RNA extracted from nasopharyngeal swabs, nasopharyngeal aspirate (nasal aspirate), and bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) from patients at risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 or with signs and symptoms of COVID-19.The TaqPath COVID-19 Combo Kit is a single, high-throughput (1,000 reactions) kit and is recommended for use with the Applied Biosystems 7500 Fast Dx Real-Time PCR System and the associated Applied Biosystems COVID-19 Interpretive Software

This real-time PCR kit can be used for the presumptive qualitative detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2 in three types of patient samples. When this kit is used with the Applied Biosystems™ 7500 Fast Dx Real-Time PCR System, the clinical laboratory can benefit from the following features:

- **End-to-end *in vitro* diagnostic solution**—a complete workflow from viral RNA extraction through to diagnostic report generation in under four hours
- **Three specimen types**—nasopharyngeal swabs, nasal aspirate, and bronchoalveolar lavages (BALs)
- **Superior specificity**—targeted to 100% of currently available complete genomes for SARS-CoV-2
- **Highly specific (even if the virus mutates)**—assays target spike (S) protein and nucleocapsid (N) protein regions having higher specificity and exhibiting lower risk for mutation
- **High throughput with each run**—ability to test up to 94 specimens in a single 96-well plate run

- **Automatic translation of data into diagnosis**—COVID-19 Interpretive Software, which automatically converts genetic analysis data into diagnosis, reducing risk of user interpretation error