

MiRXES to distribute A*STAR's SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test

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Fortitude Kit is the first SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test deployed as a complete kit in Singapore



MiRXES, a homegrown Singapore-based biotech, has received Provisional Authorisation from the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) Singapore, to supply the Fortitude Kit SARS-CoV-2 real-time RT-PCR^[1] test. With technology licensed from Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology, and Research (A*STAR) and the HSA Provisional Authorisation, MiRXES becomes a legal product owner to manufacture and distribute the Fortitude Kit.

The diagnostic test kit has been manufactured by MiRXES under contract from A*STAR since February 2020.

Fortitude Kit is the first SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test deployed as a complete kit in Singapore. The test kit detects the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes the novel coronavirus disease COVID-19. This is done with high accuracy using a 1-step real-time RT-PCR process.

The test was developed by researchers at A*STAR and the Department of Laboratory Medicine at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH). The development and pilot production of the test kit was supported by the Diagnostics Development (DxD) Hub, a national initiative led by A*STAR's commercialisation arm, A*ccelerate.

To date, the Fortitude Kit has been deployed in 13 Singapore hospitals and labs, public and private, and more than 20 countries internationally. It has been procured by agencies and healthcare institutions around the world, including those in Hong Kong, New Zealand, and the United States. Batches of Fortitude Kit were also part of the medical supplies donated by the Singapore Government to countries including Brunei, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines.

Given the growing number of mutations in reported SARS-CoV-2 genomes, MiRXES continues to work closely with A*STAR and TTSH to monitor the evolution of the novel coronavirus, and is committed to upgrading the diagnostic test on a regular basis to stay ahead of mutations.

"MiRXES is looking forward to supporting the local ramp-up in testing, as recently announced by Singapore's Prime Minister.

We are doing all we can to support governments and healthcare professionals in fighting COVID-19. Our long-standing partnership with A*ccelerate, and DxH Hub, together with our experience and capabilities in developing and producing PCR-based diagnostic tests enabled us to move swiftly in setting up the production of the Fortitude Kit and to scale at speed, while upholding stringent quality control frameworks," said Dr. Zhou Lihan, Co-founder and CEO of MiRXES.