

Shimadzu contributes to PCR screening tests for COVID-19 mutant strains in Japan

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These kits are only available in Japan

Shimadzu has released the SARS-CoV-2 Mutation Assay Core Kit, Primer/Probe Mix for N501Y, Primer/Probe Mix for L452R, and Primer/Probe Mix for E484K (all reagents for research purposes) in Japan.

These products are based on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Detection Kit (reagents for research purposes) released in April 2020. They can detect specific SARS-CoV-2 mutation sites directly from saliva or nasopharyngeal swab samples. Currently, these kits are only available in Japan, but preparations are underway to export them.

The SARS-CoV-2 Mutation Assay Core Kit (reagents for research purposes) consists of three reagents: a sample treatment solution, a reaction liquid, and an enzyme solution. Providing the primer/probe mixes for detecting the virus separately from this core kit was done to enable flexible support for the detection of a variety of mutations.

The Shimadzu PCR Test Reagent Kit eliminates the troublesome and conventionally necessary processes of ribonucleic acid (RNA) extraction and purification. This reduces the number of people required for testing and shortens the entire testing process by half, from two hours or more to approximately one hour. In addition, testing is completed without manual procedures, which prevents human error.