

Bio-Rad launches SARS-CoV-2 S gene variant controls

Aug. 13, 2021—[Bio-Rad Laboratories](#) has launched SARS-CoV-2 S gene alpha, beta, gamma, and epsilon variant controls.

The Exact Diagnostics SARS-CoV-2 S gene variant controls are intended to be validated as independent external run controls and are for research testing with molecular assays targeting mutations in the spike gene. The products are for use with assays that detect SARS-CoV-2 variant RNA and are processed in the same manner as patient specimens.

The variant controls consist of synthetic RNA transcripts of the respective variant SARS-CoV-2 S genes in a matrix simulating transport media. The products also contain human genomic DNA for internal control needs, which enables laboratories to monitor the entire process of a molecular assay, including extraction, amplification, and detection.

The SARS-CoV-2 alpha, beta, gamma, and epsilon variant S genes and human gDNA are internally targeted to 200,000 copies/mL and 75,000 copies/mL, respectively, using Bio-Rad Droplet Digital PCR to ensure lot-to-lot consistency.