

Fort Collins, CO – December 2020

GT Molecular, a rapidly expanding molecular diagnostics biotech, has launched a community-wide wastewater **test for the highly contagious UK Variant of SARS-CoV-2 (the B.1.1.7 variant)**. This novel assay builds upon GT Molecular's highly sensitive digital PCR test for the SARS-CoV-2 virus in wastewater and underlines its commitment to serving communities and wastewater treatment operations across the U.S. since the beginning of the pandemic.

According to Dr. Rose Nash, GT Molecular's Director of R&D, "This is a fantastic opportunity to leverage the advantages of wastewater epidemiology over conventional swab-based testing. With a single rapid analysis, we can assess an entire community for the presence of the new hyper-transmissible COVID-19 variant and return results to public health officials within 24 hours."

Testing wastewater for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 and the variants in circulation provides communities with a rapid, highly cost-effective method to understand the amount of viral transmission within a community. Additionally, the presence of the virus in wastewater can precede local outbreaks in a community by up to seven days, giving health officials time to plan ahead and increase testing.

Because everyone within a community provides a sample in the form of a flush to the wastewater treatment facility each day, a single wastewater test can cover thousands of people. Meanwhile a COVID-19 swab-based test for a single person can cost \$850 or more. By applying this method of community wastewater monitoring to the newly circulating UK variant, GT Molecular is the first to go one step further and actually genotype the sewer.

Alternatives to wastewater-based approaches for finding the variant within communities include massive sequencing efforts to test thousands if not tens of thousands of individuals within a community. These sequencing efforts are expensive and take days if not weeks to yield results. GT Molecular's wastewater-based test for the UK variant provides a 24-hour turnaround time using an ultra-sensitive digital PCR test tailored to this variant at a fraction of the cost required to test individuals within a population.

Additionally, it addresses many of the shortcomings of current tests and provides the following benefits:

1. **SPEED** – Results are delivered within **24 hours** of sample receipt – customers can get actionable data in time to help their communities
2. **ACCURACY** - A digital PCR protocol is used – this is inherently more sensitive than the traditional qPCR methods currently available in most labs

3. **SAMPLE VARIABILITY** – GT Molecular has state-of-the-art internal process control for viral recovery for improved reliability and reproducibility, overcoming reported sample-to-sample variability issues
4. **DISEASE PREVALENCE ESTIMATES** – GT Molecular can provide estimates using the models based on the latest scientific literature (papers available up request)
5. **DOUBLE-ENCRYPTED WEB APPLICATION INCLUDED** – Users can securely display, share and graph their data

“We continue to make great strides in waterborne pathogen detection as well as innovating in the field of cancer diagnostics, says GT Molecular CEO Christopher McKee. “This new test will allow communities to quickly ascertain whether the SARS-CoV-2 variant is present while giving health officials timely data to make decisions that can better help manage outbreaks.”.

About GT Molecular

Whether it be cancer, GMO or harmful pathogens, GT Molecular (GTM) is a leader in providing highly customizable, ultrasensitive digital PCR and qPCR tests for researchers and the Molecular Diagnostics community. GTM’s molecular app technology is an easy-to-use, end-to-end solution for rapid deployment and provides reliable and consistent measurements while detecting as little as 1-3 molecules of target nucleic acid.