



# SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing EQA

External Quality Assessment (EQA) scheme for laboratories performing SARS-CoV-2 whole genome sequencing

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Member of UK NEQAS consortium

A collaborative EQA run jointly by UK NEQAS for Microbiology and GenQA.

Aimed at laboratories that perform SARS-CoV-2 whole genome sequencing.

- ✓ Suitable for any sequencing platform/ technology
- ✓ Participants can submit FASTA, VCF, FASQ and BAM files (from their analysed data) as available
- ✓ 4 distributions, each containing 2 lyophilised specimens
- ✓ Specimens will contain SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern
- ✓ For each distribution, participants will receive a summary spreadsheet detailing all true positive, false positive and false negative variant calls, gaps present in the submitted sequence and an assessment of data quality if appropriate file types are provided.
- ✓ An individual laboratory report and a summary report with different metrics is provided.
- ✓ Scheme supported by qualified and experienced professionals
- ✓ Registration, samples provided through UK NEQAS for Microbiology
- ✓ Reporting and performance analysis provide through GenQA
- ✓ Educational

\*Please note that this scheme is not ISO 17043 accredited but follow the same principle as accredited schemes.

**For further information, please contact the Virology Scheme Manager by email: [organiser@ukneqasmicro.org.uk](mailto:organiser@ukneqasmicro.org.uk)**

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# SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing EQA

## Collaborative EQA run jointly by GenQA and UK NEQAS for Microbiology

This EQA assesses the quality of SARS-CoV-2 whole genome sequencing. **Any platform/technology** can be used, and participants will submit **FASTA**, VCF, FASTQ and BAM files from their analysed data as available. Participants will receive **two samples for viral sequencing per distribution** (with a total of 8 samples per year).

### Distribution schedule:

- **Round 1** Dispatch date: 03/06/2024 Close: 12/07/2024
- **Round 2** Dispatch date: 26/08/2024 Close: 04/10/2024
- **Round 3** Dispatch date: 18/11/2024 Close: 10/01/2025
- **Round 4** Dispatch date: 03/03/2025 Close: 11/04/2025

For each distribution, participants will receive a **summary spreadsheet detailing all true positive, false positive and false negative variant calls, gaps present in the submitted sequence**, and an **assessment of data quality** if appropriate file types are provided. In addition, for each distribution participants will receive an **individual laboratory report** and a **summary report** containing information regarding general findings, a summary of methodologies used, common errors, number of participants and benchmarking. Access to a live performance certificate is also available to all GenQA participants summarising performance status for all EQAs in which they are enrolled.

### Registration:

Participants will be required to register with **UK NEQAS for Microbiology**.

- Registration, invoicing and shipment costs will be via UK NEQAS for Microbiology. Registration (for existing participants) will open in January 2024 (through the annual re-registration for existing participants for UK NEQAS for Microbiology) and takes place from January through to end February 2024.
- During this time, you will be invited to complete an online re-registration form through the secure website using your UK NEQAS Microbiology lab ID and password, and request for the EQAs you would like to register for, for the new financial year.
- If you are an existing participant of a country served by a distributor, your distributor will contact you to re-register for the new financial year.
- If you are a new participant for the sequencing EQA, UK NEQAS for Microbiology will register your laboratory (in February/March 2024) at which time you will receive joining instructions.

Existing participants can continue to use their GenQA account to submit results and view reports. New participants will receive GenQA account details after registration with UK NEQAS for Microbiology.

**Gen QA:** [genqa.org/](https://genqa.org/)

**UK NEQAS for Microbiology:** [ukneqasmicro.org.uk/](https://ukneqasmicro.org.uk/)