

Analytical Performance of the FilmArray® Global Fever Panel

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ABSTRACT

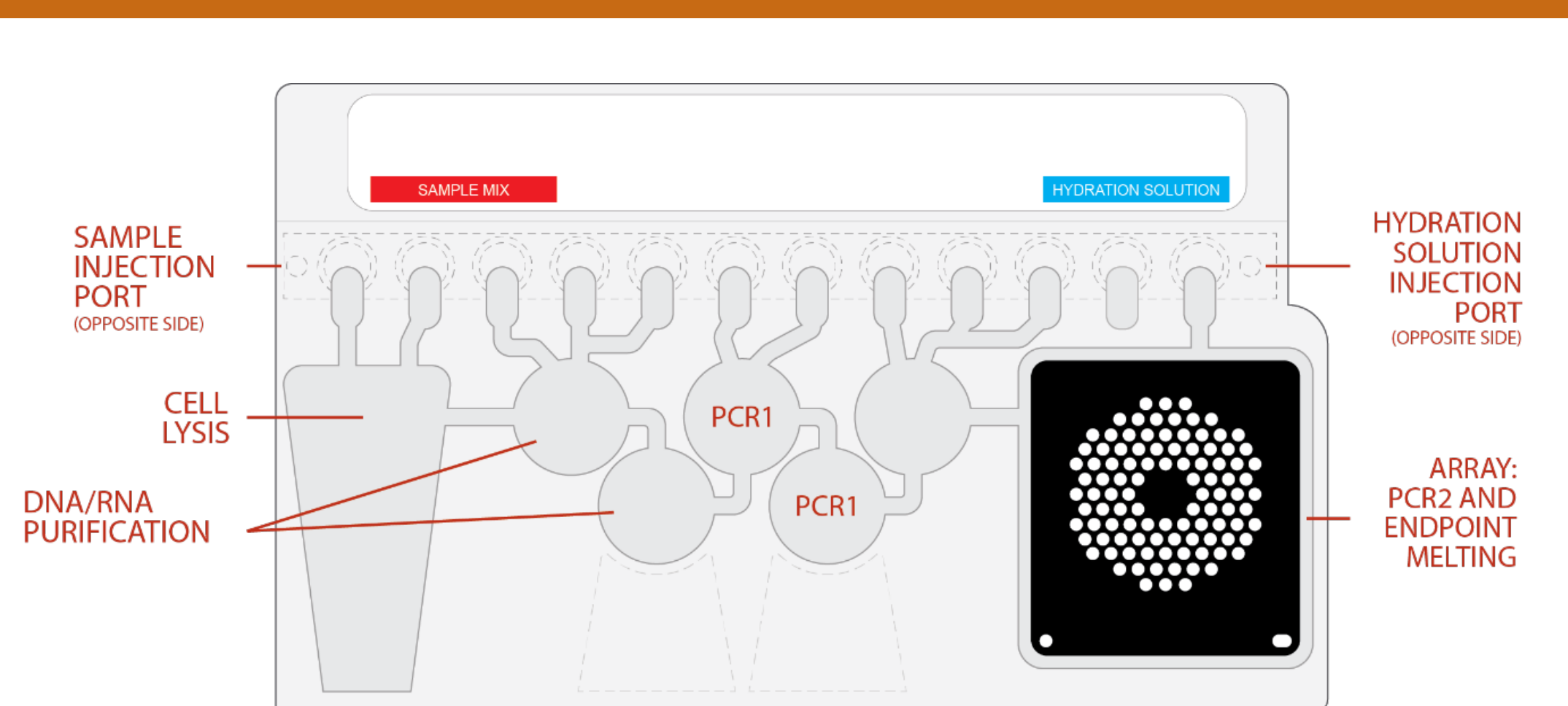
Acute Febrile Illness (AFI) can be caused by a large number of pathogens that include bacteria, viruses and parasites. BioFire Defense is developing the Global Fever (GF) Panel to be used on the FilmArray System in collaboration with the Department of Defense¹ and NIAID². The FilmArray is an in vitro diagnostic test platform that combines nucleic acid purification and nested multiplex PCR for the simultaneous identification of many infectious agents in under an hour using a closed, sample-to-answer system. The FilmArray GF Panel detects and identifies nucleic acid from chikungunya virus, CCHF virus, dengue virus (serotypes 1-4), Ebola virus, Lassa virus, Marburg virus, West Nile virus, yellow fever virus, Zika virus, *Bacillus anthracis*, *Francisella tularensis*, *Leptospira* spp., *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi and Paratyphi A, *Yersinia pestis*, *Leishmania donovani* complex, and *Plasmodium* spp. in venous blood specimens from individuals with signs and/or symptoms of AFI or recent AFI and with known or suspected exposure to target pathogens. Estimated LoD studies demonstrate clinically relevant detection levels and exclusivity testing shows high specificity. For example, estimated LoD levels for the following organisms: dengue virus New Guinea C at 36 copies/mL, Marburg virus Ravn at 26 copies/mL, Zika virus at 130 copies/mL, *Leishmania donovani* at 10 copies/mL, *Plasmodium* at 7 copies/mL, *Bacillus anthracis* at 640 copies/mL, and *Yersinia pestis* at 150 copies/mL.³ Preliminary off-panel exclusivity studies assessing specificity with closely related organisms or organisms that may be found in whole blood show no significant cross-reactivity. A multiplex FilmArray panel could aid in rapid and actionable AFI diagnosis.

- a. JPEO-MCS and USAMMDA Contract No. W911QY-13-D-0080, under the NGDS program.
- b. NIAID Contract No. HHSN272201600002C, "Advanced Development of Multiplex Diagnostic Platforms for Infectious Diseases (Global Fever Panel)".
- c. Estimated LoD levels updated to reflect the most recent data.

INTRODUCTION

The FilmArray Global Fever (GF) Panel is currently under development as a qualitative, multiplexed, nucleic acid-based test intended for use with the FilmArray 2.0 system. The FilmArray Global Fever Panel detects and identifies bacterial, viral, and protozoan nucleic acids directly from human whole blood (EDTA) collected from individuals with signs and/or symptoms of acute febrile illness or recent acute febrile illness and with known or suspected exposure to target pathogens. The following organisms are detected using the FilmArray GF Panel: *Bacillus anthracis*, *Francisella tularensis*, *Leptospira* spp., *Salmonella enterica* serovar Paratyphi, *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi, *Yersinia pestis*, chikungunya virus, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus, dengue virus, Ebola virus, Lassa virus, Marburg virus, West Nile virus, yellow fever virus, Zika virus, *Leishmania* spp., and *Plasmodium* spp. (including species differentiation of *Plasmodium falciparum* from *Plasmodium vivax* and *Plasmodium ovale*).

Figure 1. FilmArray Global Fever Pouch



The FilmArray Global Fever pouch is a closed system disposable that stores all the necessary reagents for sample preparation, reverse transcription, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and detection in order to isolate, amplify, and detect nucleic acid from multiple pathogens within a single clinical whole blood specimen. After sample collection, the user injects hydration solution into one side of the pouch and sample combined with sample buffer into the other side of the pouch, places the pouch into a FilmArray instrument, and starts a run. Loading the pouch takes about 2 minutes, and the entire run process takes about an hour.

During a run, the FilmArray system:

- Lyses the sample by agitation (bead beading).
- Extracts and purifies all nucleic acids from the sample using magnetic bead technology.
- Performs nested multiplex PCR by:
 - First performing a single, large volume, highly multiplexed first-stage PCR reaction (PCR1).
 - Then performing multiple, singleplex second-stage PCR reactions (PCR2) to amplify sequences within the PCR1 products.
- Uses endpoint melting curve data to detect and generate a result for each target on the FilmArray Global Fever array.

ESTIMATED LIMIT OF DETECTION

The purpose of this study is to determine the estimated Limit of Detection (LoD) for the FilmArray Global Fever Panel using a collection of representative organisms covering each test result. LoD₉₅ is defined as the lowest concentration of organism that can be consistently detected by the panel; analyte is detected in at least 19/20 samples (≥ 95% detected). An initial Estimated LoD (Table 1) is established using serial 10-fold dilutions. The Estimated LoD is the lowest concentration at which 3/3 replicates returned a Detected result. Samples are prepared in whole blood obtained from a repository, Bioreclamation IVT.

The estimated LoD is determined for the FilmArray Global Fever Panel test results using 'primary' analytes.

TABLE 1. ESTIMATED LIMIT OF DETECTION VALUES

Organism	Strain / Source ID	Estimated LoD (Copies/mL)	
BACTERIA			
<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	Ames vegetative	6.3E+02	
<i>Francisella tularensis</i>	BEI NR-15753	1.2E+04	
<i>Leptospira</i> spp.	<i>interrogans icterohaemorrhagiae</i>	3.9E+02	
	<i>broomii</i>	1.10 ⁸ dil	
	<i>wolffi</i>	1.10 ⁸ dil	
<i>Salmonella enterica</i>	Typhi	1.2E+01	
	Paratyphi	1.2E+01	
<i>Yersinia pestis</i>	CO92 / AGD0001227	1.5E+02	
VIRUSES			
Chikungunya virus	R80422	5.5E+02	
CCHF Virus	IBAr10200	6.4E+00	
Dengue virus	DENV-1	2.7E+01	
	DENV-2	New Guinea C	3.6E+01
	DENV-3	H87	1.6E+03
	DENV-4	H241	7.6E+01
Ebola virus	Bundibugyo	1.4E+04	
	Ivory Coast	R4371s	8.3E+01
	Reston	BEI NR-44238	2.8E+03
	Sudan	BEI NR-31810	1.1E+04
	Mayinga	R3228S / AGD000125 NR-31822 / 62428471	1.1E+03
Lassa Virus	CI 67	5.0E+01	
Marburgvirus	Ravn	2.6E+01	
West Nile Virus	B-956 Uganda	3.2E+03	
Yellow Fever virus	17D	1.2E+02	
Zika virus	PRVABC59	1.3E+02	
PROTOZOA			
<i>Leishmania donovani</i>	NR-48822 / 62900853	1.0E+01	
<i>Plasmodium</i> spp. Assay	<i>falciparum</i>	1.0E+02	
	<i>vivax/ovale</i>	7.7E+01	
<i>Plasmodium</i>	<i>Falciparum</i> Assay	1.0E+03	
	<i>vivax/ovale</i> Assay	7.7E+01	

EXCLUSIVITY

To determine whether the FilmArray Global Fever Panel assays cross-react with sequences from various microorganisms/viruses that may be present in clinical specimens, the analytical specificity of the panel was assessed by *in silico* analysis and by testing a broad spectrum of organisms/viruses at high concentrations. Typical stock concentrations for on-panel analytes tested are: 10⁷-10¹⁰ copies/mL for bacteria, 10⁷-10⁸ copies/mL for virus, and 10⁶-10⁸ copies/mL for protists. Both on-panel and off-panel organisms were evaluated to test inter-assay specificity and overall assay/panel specificity, respectively. Here we report a subset of off-panel testing.

- On-panel testing consists of contrived samples spiked into sterile saline with the highest concentration of on-panel analytes that is possible based on the concentration of the organism stock (up to 20% of the total sample volume). On-panel isolates are the same as those evaluated for the estimated LoD study.
- Off-panel organisms are selected based on 1) phylogenetic and/or genetic similarity to the panel analytes and assays, and 2) the possibility that the organism(s) could be present as normal flora, contaminants associated with sample collection, or pathogens in whole blood.

TABLE 2: ON-PANEL EXCLUSIVITY

Organism	Species/Serotype/Strain	Concentration Tested (Copies/mL)	Panel Assay (D=Detected, ND=Not Detected)																	
			<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	<i>F. tul</i>	Legio	Paratyphi	Typhi	<i>Y. pestis</i>	CCHF	CHIKV	Dengue	Ebola virus	Lassa Virus	Marburg Virus	West Nile	Yellow Fever	Zika virus	Leish	Plus spp	Plus falciparum
BACTERIA																				
<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	Ames vegetative	4.9E+07	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>Francisella tularensis</i>	Schu S4	8.7E+06	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>Leptospira</i>	<i>interrogans</i>	1.1E+06	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Paratyphi A	1.4E+08	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> subsp. <i>enterica</i>	Typhi - Ty2	1.2E+09	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	CO92	1.5E+09	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>Yersinia pestis</i>	CO92	1.5E+09	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
VIRUSES																				
Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus	IBAr10200	4.2E+07	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Chikungunya virus	Culture fluid R80422	1.1E+08	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Dengue virus	DENV-1	5.3E+06	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	DENV-2	New Guinea C	3.6E+07	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	DENV-3	H87	3.2E+07	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	DENV-4	H241	3.8E+06	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Ebola virus	Zaire -76, Mayinga	1.9E+07	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Sudan Boniface	1.4E+08	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Bundibugyo	2.8E+07	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Tai Forest	3.8E+08	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Lassa fever virus	Reston (H-28)	6.0E+08	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Josiah	5.6E+08	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Marburg virus	CI67 (Voegel)	1.2E+07	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
West Nile virus	Ravn	4.7E+07	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	B-956 Uganda	3.2E+07	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Yellow fever virus	17D Flavivirus	1.7E+07	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Zika virus	PRVABC59	4.4E+07	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
PROTOZOA																				
<i>Leishmania</i> spp.	<i>donovani</i>	1.0E+07	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND
	<i>P. falciparum</i>	Pursat Cambodia 2011, IPC 4884	1.0E+07	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	D	ND
<i>Plasmodium</i>	<i>P. vivax</i>	11 (Strain Chesson)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	D	D
	<i>P. ovale</i>	NA*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

* Samples of *P. ovale* are currently unavailable. Efforts are in progress to acquire clinical samples of *P. ovale*.

TABLE 3: SUBSET OF OFF-PANEL EXCLUSIVITY ORGANISMS

Organism	Species/Serotype/Strain	Concentration Tested	<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	CCHF	CHIKV	Dengue	Ebola virus	<i>F. tul</i>	Leish	Legio	LV	Marburg Virus	Plus spp	Plus falciparum	Plus vivax/ovale	Paratyphi	West Nile	<i>Y. pestis</i>	Yellow Fever	Zika	
BACTERIA																					
<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	B31 Clone 5A1	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
<i>Clostridium botulinum</i>	VPI4404	1.5 µg/mL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
<i>Leptospira</i>	<i>meyeri</i> (group III)	serovar Hardjo strain vent 5	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	<i>kmetzi</i> (group III)	strain Bejo-Is9T	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	<i>biflexa</i> (group III)	Patoc 1	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	<i>Wolbachii</i> (III)	Serovar Codice starin CDC	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	<i>aitonii</i> (group I)	Sichuan 79601	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	Serovar Typhimurium	Outbreak 2004	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
		LT2	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Serovar Newport	isolate 4	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
S11975		1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
Serovar Newport	SL1317	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	SL254	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
VIRUSES																					
Guanarito virus	INH-95551 (Venezuelaa prototype)	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
Hendra virus	strain 9409-30-1800 (Australia prototype)	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
Hepatitis A virus	HM 17518f	2.2E+07 Cells/mL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
Influenza A virus	A/WVS/33 (H1N1)	7.4E+05 TCID50/mL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
Machupo virus	strain Carvalho	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
Measles virus	Edmonston Kamtek	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
Rift Valley fever virus	strain ZH501	4.5E+05 Copies/mL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
PROTOZOA																					
<i>Babesia microti</i>	strain GI	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
<i>Plasmodium</i>	<i>inui</i>	Tawain 1	4.6E+05 Copies/mL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	<i>berghei</i>	NK 65	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
<i>simiovale</i>	30140	1:10 Dilution	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	D	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	<i>brucei</i>	gambiense STIB 386	8.7E+05 Parasites/mL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
<i>Trypanosoma</i>	<i>cruxi</i>	TcVt-1 axenic epimastigote	1.0E+07 Cells/mL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	