

EQA Format for 2020:

Multiple annual 'EQA Challenges'

QCMD will continue in 2020 to provide a flexible EQA format for many of its established EQA programmes in line with regional regulatory requirements.

Each EQA programme will be offered in various formats consisting of between 1 and 4 challenges (testing periods) per year. Participants will have the opportunity to select the available frequency of EQA challenge which best suits their laboratories regulatory requirements. For example, the HIV, HBV, and HCV BBV viral load EQA programmes have a quantitative focus and participants will be able to choose either 1, 2 or 4 challenges per year. Other available formats include 1 single challenge; 2 challenges; 1 or 2 challenges. For more details on the format of each of the EQA programmes see the individual EQA specifications within the catalogue or visit the QCMD website.

The QCMD EQA programmes are provided in accordance with the QCMD Code of Practice and QCMD's accreditation to ISO17043:2010.

For 2020, the preliminary molecular external quality assessment (EQA) programme schedule has been displayed by 'Pathogen Type'.

The icons below represent the EQA groups relevant to each programme.

EQA Group Key

EQA Group	Icon
Blood Borne Virus	BBV
Central Nervous System	CNS
Congenital Infections	CONG
Drug Resistance	DR
Exotic/Emerging Diseases	EXO
Gastrointestinal Diseases	GI
Immunocompromised Associated Diseases	IC
Multiple Pathogen/Syndromic	MPP
Respiratory Diseases	RES
Sexually Transmitted Infections	STI
Transplant Associated Diseases	TX
Typing	TYP
Other	OTHER

EQA reports in 2020.

There will be two standard reports in 2020. The **individual report** and the **supplementary report**. The **individual report** will be available 2-4 weeks after close of the results return phase following each challenge. The individual report will provide participants with their individual results and performance within their EQA Assessment Group / immediate 'peer groups' according to the amplification /detection method specified. This report provides the necessary regulatory feedback under ISO15189 or equivalent.

A **supplementary report** may be provided if QCMD have sufficient additional information for analysis from the EQA programme such as common gene targets used, etc. The supplementary report will, where appropriate, also include Scientific Expert commentary. The supplementary reports will be published at the discretion of the QCMD Executive.

QCMD EQA Pilot Studies 2020

A number of new EQA pilot studies may be introduced throughout 2020, and registration for these will be announced approximately 8 weeks prior to their EQA panel distribution. If you have requirements which are not supported by our current EQA offering, please contact the QCMD team (info@qcmd.org) for information about QCMD pilot studies.

Viral EQA

Programme Code	Programme Description	Groupings			Catalogue Number	Available Formats/ No. of Challenges	Panel Members per challenge	Distribution Date(s)/Testing Period	Shipping Conditions	Analysis Type			
ADVDNA20	Adenovirus		GI	RES	TX	QAV054133_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr	
						QAV054133_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q3			4,280.00 kr	
B19DNA20	B19 virus				BBV	QAV034116_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr	
						QAV034116_2	2	4	Q1,Q3			4,280.00 kr	
BKDNA20	BK virus		CNS	TX	IC	QAV144166_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr	
						QAV144166_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q3			4,280.00 kr	
CHIKV20	Chikungunya virus			CNS	EXO	QAV154175_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Ambient	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
CMVDR20	CMV Drug Resistance	DR		TX	IC	TYP	QAV144169_1	1	4 to 7	Q2	Dry-ice	Drug Resistance / Sequencing	5,000.00 kr
CVRNA20	Coronavirus					RES	QAV064137_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
CMVDBS20	Cytomegalovirus Dried Blood Spots					CONG	QAV064127_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Ambient	Qual	4,000.00 kr
CMVWB20	Cytomegalovirus Whole Blood				IC	TX	QAV124150_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr
							QAV124150_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q3			4,280.00 kr
DENVRNA20	Dengue virus			CNS	EXO	QAV114148_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Ambient	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
EVRNA20	Enterovirus				CNS	QAV984104_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
						QAV984104_2	2	4 to 6	Q1,Q3			4,280.00 kr	
EVTP20	Enterovirus Typing			CNS	TYP	QAV164185_1	1	5 to 10	Q1	Dry-ice	Typing	4,000.00 kr	
EBVDNA20	Epstein-Barr virus				IC	TX	QAV024121_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr
							QAV024121_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q3			4,280.00 kr
EBVWB20	Epstein-Barr virus Whole Blood				IC	TX	QAV134161_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr
							QAV134161_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q3			4,280.00 kr
HBVDR20	HBV Drug Resistance		BBV	DR	TYP	QAV124160_1	1	4 to 7	Q3	Dry-ice	Drug Resistance / Sequencing	5,000.00 kr	
HBVGT20	HBV Genotyping			BBV	TYP	QAV064118_1	1	8 to 12	Q1	Dry-ice	Typing	4,000.00 kr	
HCVDR20	HCV Drug Resistance		BBV	DR	TYP	QAV134167_1	1	4 to 7	Q3	Dry-ice	Drug Resistance / Sequencing	5,000.00 kr	

Viral EQA

Programme Code	Programme Description	Groupings			Catalogue Number	Available Formats/ No. of Challenges	Panel Members per challenge	Distribution Date(s)/Testing Period	Shipping Conditions	Analysis Type		
HCVGT20	HCV Genotyping			BBV	TYP	QAV034117_1	1	8 to 12	Q1	Dry-ice	Typing	4,000.00 kr
HAVRNA20	Hepatitis A virus				BBV	QAV124156_1	1	8 to 10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
						QAV124156_2	2	4	Q1,Q3			4,280.00 kr
HBVDNA20	Hepatitis B virus				BBV	QAV994110_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr
						QAV994110_2	2	4	Q1,Q3			4,280.00 kr
						QAV994110_4	4	4	Q1, Q2, Q3,Q4			8,000.00 kr
HCVRNA20	Hepatitis C virus				BBV	QAV994112_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr
						QAV994112_2	2	4	Q1,Q3			4,280.00 kr
						QAV994112_4	4	4	Q1, Q2, Q3,Q4			8,000.00 kr
HDV20	Hepatitis D virus				BBV	QAV144170_1	1	8 to 10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr
HEVRNA20	Hepatitis E virus				BBV	QAV124157_1	1	8 to 10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr
HSVDNA20	Herpes simplex virus 1 & 2			CNS	STI	QAV994105_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
						QAV994105_2	2	4 to 6	Q1,Q3			4,280.00 kr
HSVDR20	Herpes Simplex virus Drug Resistance	DR	STI	CNS	TYP	QAV164184_1	1	4 to 7	Q1	Dry-ice	Drug Resistance / Sequencing	5,000.00 kr
HIVDNA20	HIV-1 (DNA)				BBV	QAV034114_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
						QAV034114_2	2	4	Q1,Q3			4,280.00 kr
HIVRNA20	HIV-1 (RNA)				BBV	QAV994108_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr
						QAV994108_2	2	4	Q1,Q3			4,280.00 kr
						QAV994108_4	4	4	Q1, Q2, Q3,Q4			8,000.00 kr
HIVDR20	HIV-1 Drug Resistance		BBV	DR	TYP	QAV024131_1	1	4 to 7	Q3	Dry-ice	Drug Resistance / Sequencing	5,000.00 kr
HIVDRint20	HIV-1 Drug Resistance (Integrase)		BBV	DR	TYP	QAV114146_1	1	4 to 7	Q3	Dry-ice	Drug Resistance / Sequencing	5,000.00 kr
CMVDNA20	Human cytomegalovirus			IC	TX	QAV014120_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr
						QAV014120_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q3			4,280.00 kr
HHV6DNA20	Human herpes virus 6			IC	TX	QAV084119_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr
						QAV084119_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q3			4,280.00 kr

Viral EQA

Programme Code	Programme Description	Groupings			Catalogue Number	Available Formats/ No. of Challenges	Panel Members per challenge	Distribution Date(s)/Testing Period	Shipping Conditions	Analysis Type		
MPV20	Human metapneumovirus			RES	QAV054135_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
HPVPRES20	Human Papillomavirus (PreservCyt)			STI	QAV094130_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Ambient / Specialist	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
					QAV094130_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q4			4,280.00 kr	
INFRNA20	Influenza A & B virus			RES	QAV054134_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
					QAV054134_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q4			4,280.00 kr	
INFTP20	Influenza Typing		TYP	RES	QAV064138_1	1	5 to 10	Q4	Dry-ice	Typing	4,000.00 kr	
JCDNA20	JC virus	CNS	TX	IC	QAV074106_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr	
					QAV074106_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q3			4,280.00 kr	
MM20	Measles / Mumps		CNS	RES	QAV144171_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
MERS20	MERS coronavirus			RES	EXO	QAV154181_1	1	6 to 10	Q2	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
NVRNA20	Norovirus			GI	QAV084139_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
					QAV084139_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q4			4,280.00 kr	
PINFRNA20	Parainfluenza virus			RES	QAV064136_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
PeVRNA20	Parechovirus			CNS	QAV114145_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
					QAV114145_2	2	4 to 6	Q1,Q3			4,280.00 kr	
RSV20	Respiratory syncytial virus			RES	QAV054142_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
					QAV054142_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q4			4,280.00 kr	
RVRNA20	Rhinovirus			RES	QAV064143_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
VZVDNA20	Varicella-Zoster virus			CNS	QAV034103_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
					QAV034103_2	2	4 to 6	Q1,Q3			4,280.00 kr	
WNVRNA20	West Nile virus		EXO	CNS	QAV104141_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Ambient	Qual	4,000.00 kr	
ZIKA20	Zika virus		EXO	CNS	QAV164186_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Ambient	Qual	4,000.00 kr	

Bacterial EQA

Programme Code	Programme Description	Groupings			Catalogue Number	Available Formats/ No. of Challenges	Panel Members per challenge	Distribution Date(s)/Testing Period	Shipping Conditions	Analysis Type	
B16SrRNA20	Bacterial 16S Ribosomal RNA			TYP	QAB164183_1	1	8 to 10	Q4	Dry-ice	Typing	4,000.00 kr
BPDNA20	Bordetella pertussis			RES	QAB094132_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
BbDNA20	Borrelia burgdorferi spp. (Lyme Disease)			CNS	QAB114147_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
CPS20	Chlamydia psittaci			RES	QAB134165_1	1	8 to 10	Q2	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
CTDNA20	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>			STI	QAB004101_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
					QAB004101_2	2	4 to 6	Q1,Q3			4,280.00 kr
CTNg20	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> and <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>		MPP	STI	QAB174191_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,450.00 kr
					QAB174191_2	2	4 to 6	Q1,Q3			4,850.00 kr
CP20	Chlamydomphila pneumoniae			RES	QAB084107_1	1	5 to 10	Q2	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
CDDNA20	<i>Clostridium difficile</i>			GI	QAB084125_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
					QAB084125_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q4			4,280.00 kr
E.COLI20	Diarrheagenic <i>Escherichia coli</i>			GI	QAB154179_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
ESBL20	Extended Spectrum B-lactamase and Carbapenemase			DR	QAB134162_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Typing	4,000.00 kr
GBS20	Group B Streptococcus			OTHER	QAB174200_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
H.PYLORI20	Helicobacter pylori			GI	QAB164190_1	1	5 to 10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
LPDNA20	Legionella pneumophila			RES	QAB044122_1	1	8 to 12	Q1	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
MRSADNA20	Methicillin Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>			DR	QAB064124_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Ambient	Qual	4,000.00 kr
MRSATP20	Methicillin Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> Typing (epidemiology and outbreak studies)			TYP	QAB074128_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Ambient	Typing	4,000.00 kr

Bacterial EQA

Programme Code	Programme Description	Groupings			Catalogue Number	Available Formats/ No. of Challenges	Panel Members per challenge	Distribution Date(s)/Testing Period	Shipping Conditions	Analysis Type	
MTBDNA20	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>			RES	QAB014129_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Ambient	Qual	4,000.00 kr
					QAB014129_2	2	4 to 6	Q2, Q4			4,280.00 kr
MP20	<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>			RES	QAB174192_1	1	5 to 10	Q2	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
MYCO20	<i>Mycoplasma</i> spp. (cell contamination)			OTHER	QAB144168_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr
NgDNA20	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>			STI	QAB034126_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
					QAB034126_2	2	4 to 6	Q1, Q3			4,280.00 kr
SASPA20	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> spa			TYP	QAB134164_1	1	6 to 12	Q2	Ambient	Typing	4,000.00 kr
SYPH20	Syphilis			STI	QAB154180_1	1	5 to 10	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
VRE20	Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci			DR	QAB134163_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Typing	4,000.00 kr

Fungal EQA

Programme Code	Programme Description	Groupings				Catalogue Number	Available Formats/ No. of Challenges	Panel Members per challenge	Distribution Date(s)/Testing Period	Shipping Conditions	Analysis Type	
ASPDNA20	Aspergillus spp.				IC	QAF104140_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
CANDNA20	Candida spp.				IC	QAF124151_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
DERMA20	Dermatophytosis				OTHER	QAF164187_1	1	8 to 10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
PCPDNA20	Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia (PCP)			RES	IC	QAF114144_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr

Parasitic EQA

Programme Code	Programme Description	Groupings				Catalogue Number	Available Formats/ No. of Challenges	Panel Members per challenge	Distribution Date(s)/Testing Period	Shipping Conditions	Analysis Type	
TGDNA20	<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>	CONG	CNS	TX	IC	QAP044123_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Ambient	Qual	4,000.00 kr
						QAP044123_2	2	4 to 6	Q2, Q4			4,280.00 kr

Multi Pathogen EQA

Programme Code	Programme Description	Groupings			Catalogue Number	Available Formats/ No. of Challenges	Panel Members per challenge	Distribution Date(s)/Testing Period	Shipping Conditions	Analysis Type		
GastroB20	Bacterial Gastroenteritis				GI	QAB124153_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,450.00 kr
						QAB124153_2	2	4 to 6	Q2, Q4			4,850.00 kr
MALDI20	MALDI-TOF				TYP	QAB124155_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Typing	4,000.00 kr
GastroP20	Parasitic Gastroenteritis				GI	QAP124154_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,450.00 kr
						QAP124154_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q4			4,850.00 kr
RESPI20	Respiratory I				RES	QAV164188_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,450.00 kr
						QAV164188_2	2	4 to 6	Q1,Q3			4,850.00 kr
RESPII20	Respiratory II				RES	QAV164189_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,450.00 kr
						QAV164189_2	2	4 to 6	Q1,Q3			4,850.00 kr
RESPIII20	Respiratory III				RES	QAM174193_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,450.00 kr
						QAM174193_2	2	4 to 6	Q1,Q3			4,850.00 kr
STI_I20	Sexually Transmitted Infections I				STI	QAB154177_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,450.00 kr
						QAB154177_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q3			4,850.00 kr
STI_II20	Sexually Transmitted Infections II				STI	QAM174201_1	1	8 to 12	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,450.00 kr
						QAM174201_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q3			4,850.00 kr
GastroV20	Viral Gastroenteritis				GI	QAV124152_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,450.00 kr
						QAV124152_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q4			4,850.00 kr

EQA Pilot Studies												
Programme Code	Programme Description	Groupings			Catalogue Number	Available Formats/ No. of Challenges	Panel Members per challenge	Distribution Date(s)/Testing Period	Shipping Conditions	Analysis Type		
ARBO20	Arthropod-borne viruses		CNS	MPP	EXO	QAM194206_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Ambient	Qual	4,450.00 kr
NTM20	Atypical mycobacterium				RES	QAB194208_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Ambient	Qual	4,000.00 kr
CNSI20	Central Nervous System I (Viral Meningitis and Encephalitis)			MPP	CNS	QAV174195_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,450.00 kr
						QAV174195_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q4			4,850.00 kr
CNSII20	Central Nervous System II (Non-Viral Meningitis and Encephalitis)			MPP	CNS	QAM174196_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,450.00 kr
						QAM174196_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q4			4,850.00 kr
HPVSURE20	Human Papillomavirus (SurePath)				STI	QAV184204_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Ambient	Qual	4,000.00 kr
MTBDR20	Mycobacterium tuberculosis Drug Resistance			DR	RES	QAB194209_1	1	6 to 10	Q4	Ambient	Typing	4,000.00 kr
MG20	Mycoplasma genitalium				STI	QAB184205_1	1	6 to 10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
SEPSIS20	Sepsis				MPP	QAB164178_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
TTV20	Torque teno virus			TX	IC	QAV184203_1	1	6 to 10	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
TRANS20	Transplantation (Viral)		IC	MPP	TX	QAM174198_1	1	8 to 12	Q4	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,450.00 kr
						QAM174198_2	2	4 to 6	Q2,Q4			4,850.00 kr
TV20	Trichomonas vaginalis				STI	QAP184202_1	1	6 to 10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual	4,000.00 kr
YFV20	Yellow fever virus				EXO	QAV194207_1	1	8 to 12	Q2	Ambient	Qual	4,000.00 kr

New EQA Pilot Studies for 2020

Programme Code	Programme Description	Groupings			Catalogue Number	Available Formats/ No. of Challenges	Panel Members per challenge	Distribution Date(s)/Testing Period	Shipping Conditions	Analysis Type	
HIV2_20	HIV-2			BBV	QAV204212_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Qual & Quant	4,000.00 kr
					QAV204212_2	2	4	Q1,Q3			4,280.00 kr
NGSmeta_20	Viral Metagenomics NGS			OTHER	QAV204213_1	1	4 to 7	Q4	Dry-ice	Drug Resistance/ Sequencing	4,000.00 kr