

Air Monitoring in the fight against COVID-19

As we continue to learn more about the COVID-19 pandemic and how the disease spread, it has now been recognized and acknowledged by CDC¹ and WHO² that aerosol transmission in poorly ventilated indoor environments may play a significant role. Aerosols are respiratory droplets ($<5\ \mu\text{m}$) generated by evaporation of larger droplets and through normal breathing, talking, sneezing or coughing. The small aerosols or droplet nuclei stay longer in the air and travel further than the larger droplets ($>5\ \mu\text{m}$). If aerosols contain the virus in sufficient quantity a susceptible person could inhale them and become infected. While the infectious dose of SARS-CoV-2 is currently unknown data is available for other respiratory viruses.

Eurofins is the leading laboratory to offer quantitative air testing for SARS-CoV-2

The quantification of virus particles is crucial for a meaningful air monitoring program to assess the risk of potential exposure and transmission. Other factors are exposure time, susceptibility of the individual and the (hitherto unknown) infectious dose. As more data about infectious dose becomes available the monitoring of indoor air environments by quantitative analysis will be an important tool to provide feedback for risk assessments of indoor environments.

Indoor air monitoring can benefit many industries

Industries that are hardest hit by the pandemic such as air travel, hospitality, theaters, convention centers and other businesses may benefit from aerosol testing for COVID-19 to re-assure the customers and audience. Aerosol testing does not address transmission caused by direct contact or when in close proximity to an infected individual. It does, however, enable us to address aerosol transmission and air quality as it relates to SARS-CoV-2.

Easy sampling and fast results

The sampling procedures are straightforward and easy to follow. Our sampling kits contain clear instructions on how to take samples and provide materials for safe packaging. Make sure to send samples immediately after a sampling project is completed. Results are available within 48 hours.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s1005-how-spread-covid.html>

² <https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/transmission-of-sars-cov-2-implications-for-infection-prevention-precautions>

SAMPLERS



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