

## Press Release

# European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) intensifies the identification and tracking of mutations of the SARS-CoV-2 genome across Europe with support of Eurofins Genomics

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The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has begun work with Eurofins Genomics with the objective to monitor mutations across European countries. The EU/EEA Member States are in the phase of increasing both their sequencing capacities and capabilities to set up a robust surveillance system that allows for the detection and monitoring of variant viruses. To support this goal, Eurofins Genomics will provide additional sequencing capacity by using the ARTIC Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology with a rapid turn-around time including bioinformatic services and volume of thousands of samples per week.

ECDC's main role as an agency of the European Union is to strengthen Europe's defenses against communicable diseases. The increasing diversity of SARS-CoV-2 variants and the potential higher infectivity of some new viral strains underline the need to identify, trace, and track mutations across the complete viral genome. Currently, strains of concern include the B.1.1.7 variant, first identified in the United Kingdom, and the B.1.351 variant, first identified in South Africa.

Eurofins Genomics' current COVID-19 testing activities provide large capacities to support health authorities worldwide. The support can vary from supply of highly sensitive PCR kits (e.g. NovaType), qPCR COVID-19 tests, Sanger Sequencing solutions or full genome sequencing with NGS to detect and survey SARS-CoV-2 variants. In addition, large-scale capabilities for antibody testing are also being established, to help following efficiency of vaccination programs and populations' resistance to COVID.

WGS has globally been accepted as the most accurate subtyping technique for pathogens. It is an extremely powerful tool for tracking infections as it provides unrivalled genetic information into the specific strains involved.

**For Further Information:**

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**Notes to Editors:**

About Eurofins Genomics – a global leader in genomic products and services Eurofins Genomics, a member of the Eurofins Group with facilities in Europe, the United States and Asia, is an internationally leading provider of DNA sequencing services, next generation sequencing services, genotyping services, DNA synthesis products and bioinformatics services for pharma, diagnostics, food, agriculture, biotechnological and research markets. The company's strength is its extensive customer base and high quality services in industrial scale for the life science industries and academic research institutions around the world. For further information, please visit the [Eurofins Genomics website](http://www.eurofinsgenomics.com).

**About Eurofins – the global leader in bio-analysis**

Eurofins Scientific, through its subsidiaries (hereinafter “Eurofins” or “the Group”), believes it is the global leader in food, environmental, pharmaceutical and cosmetics products testing and in agrosience CRO services. It is also one of the global independent market leaders in certain testing and laboratory services for genomics, discovery pharmacology, forensics, CDMO, advanced material sciences and in the support of clinical studies. In addition, Eurofins is one of the leading global emerging players in esoteric and molecular clinical diagnostic testing. With over 50,000 staff across a network of more than 900 independent companies in over 50 countries generally specialised by end client markets and operating more than 800 laboratories, Eurofins offers a portfolio of over 200,000 analytical methods to evaluate the safety, identity, composition, authenticity, origin, traceability and purity of a wide range of products, as well as providing innovative clinical diagnostic testing services. The Group’s objective is to provide its customers with high-quality and innovative services, accurate results on time and, when requested, expert advice by its highly-qualified staff.

Eurofins is committed to pursuing its dynamic growth strategy by expanding both its technology portfolio and its geographic reach. Through R&D and acquisitions, the Group draws on the latest developments in the field of biotechnology and analytical chemistry to offer its clients unique analytical solutions and a very large range of testing methods.

As one of the most innovative and quality-oriented international groups in its industry, Eurofins is ideally positioned to support its clients’ increasingly stringent quality and safety standards and the increasing demands of regulatory authorities and healthcare practitioners around the world. Shares in Eurofins Scientific are listed on the Euronext Paris Stock Exchange (ISIN FR0014000MR3, Reuters EUFI.PA, Bloomberg ERF FP).