*Genomic quantitative PCR reference*

A gBlocks Gene Fragment (Integrated DNA Technologies, Coralville, IA, USA) of a 162 bp gene encoding a portion of the specific membrane protein M (a conserved region in murine coronavirus genomes) was used as a positive control for quantification. A calibration curve standard for the RT-qPCR was generated with eight replicates of ten-fold dilutions of the amplicon ranging from 108 – 101 copies per reaction.

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generatedThe gene fragment amplified has the following sequence:

5’ – GAG GCA GTT CAA TTC CTT AAG GAA TGG AAC TTC TCG TTG GGC ATT ATA CTA CTC TTT ATT ACT ATC ATA CTA CAG TTC GGT TAC ACG AGC CGT AGC ATG TTT ATT TAT GTT GTG AAA ATG ATA ATC TTG TGG TTA ATG TGG CCA CTG ACT ATT GTT TTG TGT – 3’

Figure S1. Calibration standard for RT-qPCR of the murine coronavirus used in this study. Amplification efficiency was 93% based on the slope of average Ct values for these standards.