

Supplemental Table S1: Average Ct values from 5 biological replicates from which linear regression was calculated. "HK" represents heat killed and number in sample column is CFU/mL (10^x CFU/mL).

Sample	Ct	Sample	Ct
10 ⁸ Live + 0 HK	12.7	10 ⁸ Live + 10 ⁷ HK	10.9
10 ⁷ Live + 0 HK	15.5	10 ⁷ Live + 10 ⁷ HK	13.7
10 ⁶ Live + 0 HK	18.2	10 ⁶ Live + 10 ⁷ HK	16.1
10 ⁵ Live + 0 HK	21.0	10 ⁵ Live + 10 ⁷ HK	19.2
10 ⁴ Live + 0 HK	23.6	10 ⁴ Live + 10 ⁷ HK	22.4
10 ³ Live + 0 HK	26.4	10 ³ Live + 10 ⁷ HK	24.8
10 ² Live + 0 HK	28.1		

Supplemental Table S2: Summary of intra- and inter-assay variability for copy number and Cq values. Variability is represented as percent coefficient of variation (CV%) or standard deviation (SD). "HK" represents heat killed and number in sample column is CFU/mL (10^x CFU/mL).

Sample	Copy# CV% intra	Copy# CV% inter	Cq SD intra	Cq SD inter
10 ⁸ Live + 0 HK	5.7	4.6	0.06	1.64
10 ⁷ Live + 0 HK	3.6	4.7	0.01	1.63
10 ⁶ Live + 0 HK	6.8	6.0	0.05	1.84
10 ⁵ Live + 0 HK	7.9	6.0	0.18	1.72
10 ⁴ Live + 0 HK	7.4	4.9	0.10	1.25
10 ³ Live + 0 HK	8.8	7.4	0.04	2.03
10 ² Live + 0 HK	10.0	10.1	0.23	2.44
10 ⁸ Live + 10 ⁷ HK	3.1	1.3	0.06	0.47
10 ⁷ Live + 10 ⁷ HK	7.2	3.9	0.17	1.37
10 ⁶ Live + 10 ⁷ HK	6.6	1.5	0.10	0.48
10 ⁵ Live + 10 ⁷ HK	5.9	2.0	0.09	0.60
10 ⁴ Live + 10 ⁷ HK	12.7	3.6	0.12	0.94
10 ³ Live + 10 ⁷ HK	15.4	6.9	0.17	1.71
10 ² Live + 10 ⁷ HK	16.2	9.5	0.24	2.20