

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hygiena® Introduces First PCR Assay for Virulence-Associated Genetic Characterization of *Salmonella* in Poultry, Beef, and Pork

*Developed in collaboration with the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Hygiena's BAX® System Real-Time PCR Assay for Highly Pathogenic *Salmonella* adds virulence-associated genetic characterization to *Salmonella*-positive samples for research and ecological surveillance.*

Camarillo, California, September 30, 2026 — Hygiena®, a global leader in rapid food safety diagnostics, today announced the launch of the BAX® System Real-Time PCR Assay for Highly Pathogenic *Salmonella*, developed in collaboration with the USDA Agricultural Research Service's US Meat Animal Research Center. Designed for research and ecological surveillance applications in poultry, pork and beef, the assay detects *Salmonella* spp. while targeting up to three proprietary genetic markers associated with pathogenicity.

Food safety research is increasingly examining not only whether *Salmonella* is present, but also characteristics of *Salmonella* populations that may be relevant to public health risk. By adding virulence-associated genetic marker detection to the PCR workflow, the new assay provides researchers with additional information for ecological surveillance and the study of risk-based approaches to *Salmonella* control.

“For decades, pathogen testing has largely answered a binary question: is *Salmonella* present or not,” said Steve Nason, CEO of Hygiena. “This assay adds another level of understanding by providing researchers with additional information about the *Salmonella* serovar detected. By integrating virulence-associated genetic characterization into the BAX System workflow, we are providing researchers with a new tool to investigate differences among *Salmonella* populations and their potential human health significance.”

Designed as a reflex test following a positive BAX System Real-Time *Salmonella* result, the assay uses the same lysate from the initial positive sample to target *Salmonella* spp. alongside three proprietary virulence-associated genetic markers. Characterization can then be extended to individual *Salmonella* colonies, increasing the accuracy of virulence profiling and enabling biomarker information from sample and colony levels to be combined for a more comprehensive characterization of the *Salmonella* population. By using the same lysate generated from the initial positive BAX System result, researchers can add virulence-associated genetic characterization within an established PCR workflow without beginning a separate sample-preparation process.

We create innovative diagnostics for a healthier world

About Hygiena

At Hygiena, our mission is to create innovative diagnostics for a healthier world. We develop, produce and provide best-in-class One Health Diagnostics® solutions from seed to plate to our global customer bases. As one of the few organizations in the world to uniquely focus on food safety throughout the value chain, we maintain the belief that human health is closely connected to the health of animals in our shared environment. Our rapid molecular tests and analysis tools for food and beverage safety, veterinary diagnostics and environmental monitoring help prevent illness, save lives and contribute to making the world a safer place. As the leaders in rapid diagnostic tests, we provide solutions that are robust, easy to use and accurate global, backed by industry-leading customer service and support. To help organizations make smarter, data driven decisions, SureTrend® Food Safety Management Software along with the newest addition to the Hygiena portfolio, KLEANZ® Sanitation Management, transform ATP, PCR, sanitation, and environmental data into clear, actionable insights, strengthening compliance, improving quality programs, and supporting continuous improvement. With a sizeable global presence, Hygiena is headquartered in Camarillo, California, with numerous offices and customer application centers in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Australia. We also partner with over 180 distributors in more than 100 countries worldwide. Support us in our mission for a healthier world. Visit hygiena.com

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