

S1 Table. Primers and amplification conditions for 16S and (*tcdA* and *tcdB*) PCR

Target gene	F/R*	Primer sequence	PCR Conditions
16S ribosomal RNA	F	YT GGG YDT AAA GNG	95°C 5 min, 35 cycles 95°C, 50s, 50°C, 1min, 72°C, 1min; with a final extension 72°C, 10 mins.
	R	CCC GTC AAT TYY TTT RAG TTT	
<i>tcdA</i>	F	ATG TCT TTA ATA TCT AAA GAA GAG	95°C 2 min, 35 cycles 95°C, 30s, 52°C, 30s, 72°C 60s with a final extension of 72°C for 10 mins.
	R	CCT TTT TTA GTG TAT TGA CTA AG	
<i>tcdB</i>	F	ATG AGT TTA GTT AAT AGA AAA CAG	95°C 5 min, 35 cycles 95°C, 50s; 50°C, 1 minute; 72°C, 60s with a final extension 72°C for 10 mins.
	R	GTT TAT CAA AAA TGC ATT ACT ATC	

* F = Forward, R = Reverse