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| Supplementary Table 1. Primers used in this study. |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| **Gene** | **Primer Name** | **Specificity** | **Gene location** | **Sequence (5'-3')** | **Amplicon Size (bp)** | **Reference** |
|  |
| *stx1/vt1* | vt1-F | conserved region of *vt1* | 639–659 | CATTGTCTGGTGACAGTAGCT | 732 | Gannon et al, 1997 |
|   | vt1-R |   | 1371–1351 | CCCGTAATTTGCGCACTGAG |   |
|   | stx1F | subunit coding region of *stx1* | 454–633 | ATAAATCGCCATTCGTTGACTAC | 180 | Paton and Paton, 1998 |
|   | stx1R |   |   | AGAACGCCCACTGAGATCATC |   |
| *stx2/vt2* | vt2-F | conserved region of *stx2* | 624–644 | CCATGACAACGGACAGCAGTT | 779 | Gannon et al, 1997 |
|   | vt2-R |   | 1403–1384 | CCTGTCAACTGAGCACTTTG |   |
|   | stx2F | subunit coding region of *stx2*  | 603–857 | GGCACTGTCTGAAACTGCTCC | 255 | Paton and Paton, 1998 |
|   | stx2R | (including variants) |   | TCGCCAGTTATCTGACATTCTG |   |
| *eaeA* | eaeAF | conserved between EPEC  | 27–410 | GACCCGGCACAAGCATAAGC | 384 | Paton and Paton, 1998 |
|   | eaeAR | and VTEC |   | CCACCTGCAGCAACAAGAGG |   |
| *hlyA* | hlyAF | EHEC hlyA | 70–603 | GCATCATCAAGCGTACGTTCC | 534 |
|  | hlyAR |   |   | AATGAGCCAAGCTGGTTAAGCT |   |
| *saa* | SAADF | *saa* |   | CGTGATGAACAGGCTATTGC | 119 | Paton et al, 2001 |
|   | SAADR |   |   | ATGGACATGCCTGTGGCAAC |   |
| *stx2a/vt2a* | stx2a-F2 | *stx2/vt2* subtype *a*  | 754–774 | GCGATACTGRGBACTGTGGCC |   | Scheutz *et al*., 2012 |
|   | stx2a-R3 |   | 1,079–1,102 | CCGKCAACCTTCACTGTAAATGTG | 349 |
|   | stx2a-R2 |   | 1,079–1,100 | GCCACCTTCACTGTGAATGTG | 347 |
| *stx2c/vt2c* | stx2c-F1 | *stx2/vt2* subtype c | 926–955 | GAAAGTCACAGTTTTTATATACAACGGGTA | 177 |
|   | stx2c-R2 |   | 1,079–1,102 | CCGGCCACYTTTACTGTGAATGTA |   |
| *stx2d/vt2d* | stx2d-F1 | *stx2/vt2* subtype d | 927-955 | AAARTCACAGTCTTTATATACAACGGGTG |   |
|   | stx2d-R1 |   | 1085-1105 | TTYCCGGCCACTTTTACTGTG | 179 |
|   | stx2d-O55R |   | 1140-1161 | TCAACCGAGCACTTTGCAGTAG | 235 |
|   | stx2d-R2 |   | 1184-1206 | GCCTGATGCACAGGTACTGGAC | 280 |