

# BioLegend<sup>®</sup>

## LEGEND MAX<sup>™</sup>

ELISA Kit with Pre-coated Plates



## Mouse IL-21

Cat. No. 446107

ELISA Kit for Accurate Quantitation of Mouse IL-21 from  
Cell Culture Supernatant, Serum, and Plasma

BioLegend, Inc.  
[biolegend.com](http://biolegend.com)

***It is highly recommended that this manual be read in its entirety before using this product. Do not use this kit beyond the expiration date.***

*For Research Purposes Only. Not for use in diagnostic or therapeutic procedures. Purchase does not include or carry the right to resell or transfer this product either as a stand-alone product or as a component of another product. Any use of this product other than the permitted use without the express written authorization of BioLegend is strictly prohibited.*

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Introduction.....	2
Materials Provided.....	2
Materials to be Provided by the End-User.....	3
Storage Information.....	3
Health Hazard Warnings.....	3
Specimen Collection and Handling.....	4
Reagent and Sample Preparation.....	4
Assay Procedure.....	5
Assay Procedure Summary.....	7
Calculation of Results.....	8
Typical Data.....	8
Performance Characteristics.....	9
Specificity.....	9
Sensitivity.....	9
Recovery.....	9
Linearity.....	9
Intra-Assay Precision.....	9
Inter-Assay Precision.....	9
Biological Samples.....	10
Troubleshooting Guide.....	11
ELISA Plate Template.....	13

# LEGEND MAX™ Mouse IL-21 ELISA Kit

## Introduction:

Interleukin 21 (IL-21) is cytokine produced by CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells including T helper 17 (Th17) cells, T follicular helper (Tfh) cells and natural killer T (NKT) cells. Functionally, IL-21 has pleiotropic effects on both innate and adaptive immune responses. In normal B cells, IL-21 can mediate cell proliferation, growth arrest, and terminal differentiation, or apoptosis, depending on its activation status. However, IL-21 inhibits the proliferation of murine and human B cells stimulated with anti-IgM antibodies. In addition, IL-21 enhances cytotoxic activity, IFN $\gamma$  production by CD8-effector T cells, and terminal differentiation of activated natural killer (NK) cells. Though, it is not essential for the differentiation of Th17 cells *in vitro* and *in vivo*, IL-21 can drive Th17 responses in conjunction with TGF $\beta$ . Production of IL-21 from CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells is induced by IL-6 upon TCR stimulation, and IL-6 and IL-21 are key players in the Tfh differentiation, characterized by increased protein expression of both Bcl6 and CXCR5.

The BioLegend LEGEND MAX™ Mouse IL-21 ELISA Kit is a Sandwich Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) with a 96-well strip plate that is pre-coated with a polyclonal goat anti-mouse IL-21 capture antibody. The detection antibody is a biotinylated polyclonal goat anti-mouse IL-21 antibody. This kit is specifically designed for the accurate quantitation of mouse IL-21 from cell culture supernatant, serum, plasma, and other biological fluids. It is analytically validated with ready-to-use reagents.

## Materials Provided:

Description	Quantity (1 plate)	Volume (per bottle)	Part #
Anti-Mouse IL-21 Pre-coated 96-well Strip Microplate	1 plate		79429
Mouse IL-21 Detection Antibody	1 bottle	12 mL	79430
Mouse IL-21 Standard	1 vial	lyophilized	78194
Matrix C (for serum or plasma samples only)	1 bottle	lyophilized	78316
Avidin-HRP	1 bottle	12 mL	77897
Assay Buffer A	1 bottle	25 mL	78232
Wash Buffer (20X)	1 bottle	50 mL	78233
Substrate Solution F	1 bottle	12 mL	79132
Stop Solution	1 bottle	12 mL	79133
Plate Sealers	4 sheets		78101

**Materials to be Provided by the End-User:**

- Microplate reader able to measure absorbance at 450 nm
- Adjustable pipettes to measure volumes ranging from 1 µL to 1,000 µL
- Deionized water
- Wash bottle or automated microplate washer
- Log-Log graph paper or software for data analysis
- Polypropylene tubes to prepare standard dilutions
- Timer
- Plate Shaker
- Polypropylene vials

**Storage Information:**

Store unopened kit components between 2°C and 8°C. Do not use this kit beyond its expiration date.

Opened or Reconstituted Components	
Microplate wells	If not all microplate strips are used, remove the excess strips by pressing up from underneath each strip. Place excess strips back in the foil pouch with the included desiccant pack and reseal. Store between 2°C and 8°C for up to one month.
Standard	The remaining reconstituted standard stock solution can be aliquoted into polypropylene vials and stored at -70°C for up to one month. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
Matrix C	
Detection Antibody	Store opened reagents between 2°C and 8°C and use within one month.
Avidin-HRP	
Assay Buffer A	
Wash Buffer (20X)	
Substrate Solution F	
Stop Solution	

**Health Hazard Warnings:**

1. Reagents that contain preservatives may be harmful if ingested, inhaled or absorbed through the skin. Refer to the MSDS online at BioLegend’s website for details ([www.biolegend.com/en-us/sds](http://www.biolegend.com/en-us/sds)).
2. Substrate Solution F is harmful if inhaled or ingested. Avoid skin, eye and clothing contact.

## LEGEND MAX™ Mouse IL-21 ELISA Kit

3. To reduce the likelihood of blood-borne transmission of infectious agents, handle all serum, plasma and other biological fluids in accordance with NCCLS regulations.
4. Stop Solution contains strong acid. *Wear eye, hand, and face protection.*
5. Before disposing of the plate, rinse it with an excess amount of tap water.

### Specimen Collection and Handling:

Specimens should be clear and non-hemolyzed. If possible, unknown samples should be run at a number of dilutions to determine the optimal dilution factor that will ensure accurate quantitation.

Cell Culture Supernatant: If necessary, centrifuge all samples to remove debris prior to analysis. It is recommended that samples be stored at  $< -70^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

Serum: Use a serum separator tube and allow clotting for at least 30 minutes, then centrifuge for 10 minutes at  $1,000 \times g$ . Remove serum layer and assay immediately or store serum samples at  $< -70^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

Plasma: Collect blood samples in citrate, heparin or EDTA containing tubes. Centrifuge for 10 minutes at  $1,000 \times g$  within 30 minutes of collection. Assay immediately or store plasma samples at  $< -70^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

### Reagent and Sample Preparation:

Note: All reagents should be diluted immediately prior to use.

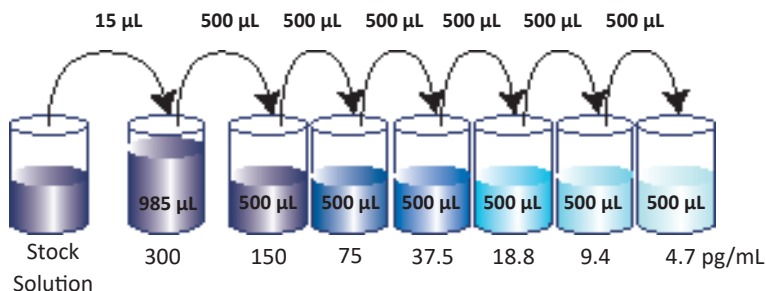
1. Dilute the 20X Wash Buffer to 1X with deionized water. For example, make 1 liter of 1X Wash Buffer by adding 50 mL of 20X Wash Buffer to 950 mL of deionized water. If crystals have formed in the 20X Wash Buffer, bring to room temperature and vortex until dissolved.
2. If serum or plasma samples will be assayed, reconstitute the lyophilized Matrix C by dispensing 2 mL of deionized water into the vial and allow the reconstituted Matrix C to sit at room temperature for 15 minutes, then vortex to mix completely.
3. Reconstitute the lyophilized Mouse IL-21 Standard by adding the volume of Assay Buffer A to make the 20 ng/mL standard stock solution (Refer to LEGEND MAX Kit Lot-Specific Certificate of Analysis/LEGEND MAX Kit Protocol). Allow the reconstituted standard to sit at room temperature for 15 minutes, then briefly vortex to mix completely.

- In general, samples are analyzed without dilutions. However, if dilutions are required, use Assay Buffer A for diluting cell culture supernatant samples and Matrix C for diluting serum and plasma samples.

### Assay Procedure:

Note: Do not mix reagents from different kits or lots. Reagents and/or antibodies from different manufacturers should not be used with this kit.

- Bring all reagents to room temperature prior to use. It is strongly recommended that all standards and samples be run in duplicate or triplicate. A standard curve is required for each assay.
- If not all microplate strips will be used, remove the excess strips by pressing up from underneath each strip. Place excess strips back in the foil pouch with the included desiccant pack and reseal.
- Prepare 1,000  $\mu\text{L}$  of the 300  $\text{pg}/\text{mL}$  top standard by adding 15  $\mu\text{L}$  of the standard stock solution in 985  $\mu\text{L}$  of Assay Buffer A. Perform six two-fold serial dilutions of the 300  $\text{pg}/\text{mL}$  top standard in separate tubes using Assay Buffer A as the diluent. Thus, the mouse IL-21 standard concentrations in the tubes are 300  $\text{pg}/\text{mL}$ , 150  $\text{pg}/\text{mL}$ , 75  $\text{pg}/\text{mL}$ , 37.5  $\text{pg}/\text{mL}$ , 18.8  $\text{pg}/\text{mL}$ , 9.4  $\text{pg}/\text{mL}$  and 4.7  $\text{pg}/\text{mL}$ , respectively. Assay Buffer A serves as the zero standard (0  $\text{pg}/\text{mL}$ ).



- Wash the plate 4 times with at least 300  $\mu\text{L}$  of 1X Wash Buffer per well and blot any residual buffer by firmly tapping the plate upside down on absorbent paper. All subsequent washes should be performed similarly.
- For measuring samples of cell culture supernatant:**
  - Add 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of Assay Buffer A to each well that will contain either standard dilutions or samples.
  - Add 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of standard dilutions or samples to the appropriate wells.

## LEGEND MAX™ Mouse IL-21 ELISA Kit

### For measuring serum or plasma samples:

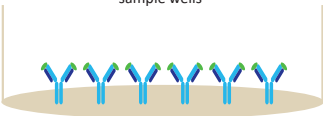
- a) Add 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of Matrix C to each well that will contain the standard dilutions. Add 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of Assay Buffer A to each well that will contain samples.
  - b) Add 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of standard dilutions to the wells containing Matrix C. Add 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of diluted serum or plasma samples to the wells containing Assay Buffer A.
6. Seal the plate with a Plate Sealer included in the kit. Shake the plate for 1 minute and incubate the plate **overnight** between 2°C and 8°C without shaking.
  7. Discard the contents of the plate into a sink, then wash the plate 4 times with 1X Wash Buffer as in step 4.
  8. Add 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of Mouse IL-21 Detection Antibody solution to each well, seal the plate and incubate at room temperature for 1 hours while shaking.
  9. Discard the contents of the plate into a sink, then wash the plate 4 times with 1X Wash Buffer as in step 4.
  10. Add 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of Avidin-HRP solution to each well, seal the plate and incubate at room temperature for 30 minutes while shaking.
  11. Discard the contents of the plate into a sink, then wash the plate 5 times with 1X Wash Buffer as in step 4. For this final wash, soak wells in 1X Wash Buffer for 30 seconds to 1 minute for each wash. This will help minimize background.
  12. Add 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of Substrate Solution F to each well and incubate for 15 minutes in the dark. Wells containing mouse IL-21 should turn blue in color with an intensity proportional to its concentration. It is not necessary to seal the plate during this step.
  13. Stop the reaction by adding 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of Stop Solution to each well. The solution color should change from blue to yellow.
  14. Read absorbance at 450 nm within 30 minutes. If the reader is capable of reading at 570 nm, the absorbance at 570 nm can be subtracted from the absorbance at 450 nm.



## Assay Procedure Summary

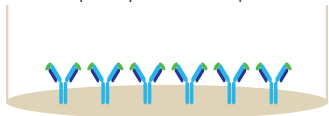
- For measuring cell culture supernatant:**

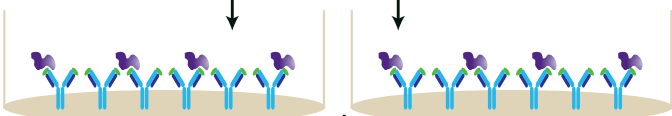
Wash 4 times  
Add 50  $\mu$ L Assay Buffer A to standard and sample wells

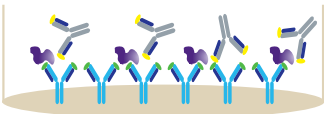


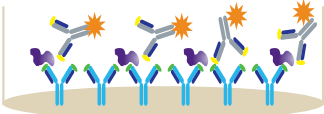
**For measuring serum or plasma:**

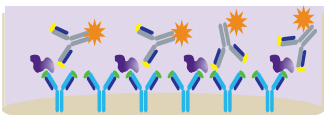
Wash 4 times  
Add 50  $\mu$ L Matrix C to standard wells  
Add 50  $\mu$ L Assay Buffer A to sample wells

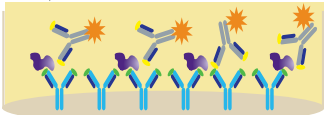

- Add 50  $\mu$ L diluted standards to standard wells  
Add 50  $\mu$ L samples to sample wells  
Shake for 1 min and incubate overnight between 2°C and 8°C without shaking


- Wash 4 times  
Add 100  $\mu$ L Detection Antibody solution  
Incubate 1 hr, RT, shaking


- Wash 4 times  
Add 100  $\mu$ L Avidin-HRP A solution  
Incubate 30 min, RT, shaking


- Wash 5 times  
Add 100  $\mu$ L Substrate Solution F  
Incubate 15 min, RT, in the dark


- Add 100  $\mu$ L Stop Solution


- Read absorbance at 450 nm and 570 nm

# LEGEND MAX™ Mouse IL-21 ELISA Kit

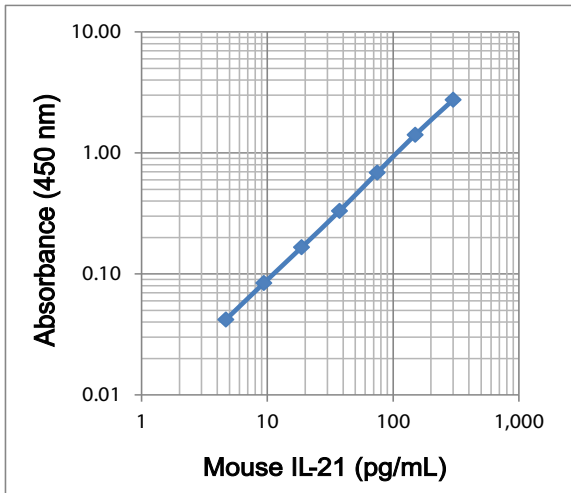
## Calculation of Results:

The data can be best calculated with computer-based curve-fitting software using a 5- or 4-parameter logistics curve-fitting algorithm. If an appropriate software is not available, use log-log graph paper to determine sample concentrations. Determine the mean absorbance for each set of duplicate or triplicate standards, controls, and samples. Plot the standard curve on log-log graph paper with cytokine concentration on the X-axis and absorbance on the Y-axis. Draw a best fit line through the standard points. To determine the unknown cytokine concentrations, find the mean absorbance value of the unknown concentration on the Y-axis and draw a horizontal line to the standard curve. At the point of intersection, draw a vertical line to the X-axis and read the cytokine concentration.

If samples were diluted, multiply the concentration by the appropriate dilution factor. If a test sample's absorbance value falls outside the linear portion of the standard curve, the test sample needs to be re-analyzed at a higher (or lower) dilution as appropriate.

## Typical Data:

This standard curve was generated at BioLegend for demonstration purposes only. A standard curve must be run with each assay.



**Performance Characteristics:**

**Specificity:** No cross reactivity was observed when this kit was used to analyze the following recombinant cytokines/chemokines at up to 50 ng/mL.

Mouse	IL-1 $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-12(p40), IL-12 (p70), IL-13, IL-15, IL-17A, IL-17F, IL-17A/F, IL-22, IL-23, IL-25 IL-27, IL-33, IL-34, FGF-Basic, IFN- $\gamma$ , Isthmin-1, SCF, TACI-Fc Chimera, TNF- $\alpha$ , TRANCE(RANKL), VEGF-120
Human	IL-21, IL-36 $\alpha$ , PCSK9, VEGF-121, CD255(TWEAK), MMP-9, VEGF-165, TSLP, sTNF-RI, MIF

**Sensitivity:** The average minimum detectable concentration is 1.39 pg/mL.

**Recovery:** Recombinant mouse IL-21 (100 and 25 pg/mL) was spiked into mouse serum samples from 4 different strains, and then analyzed with the LEGEND MAX™ Mouse IL-21 ELISA kit. On average, 86.1 % of the cytokine was recovered from serum samples.

**Linearity:** Four different strain mouse serum samples spiked with high concentrations of IL-21 were diluted 1:1, 1:2, 1:4, 1:8 with Matrix C to produce samples with values within the dynamic range and then assayed. On average, 118.8 % of the expected cytokine was detected from serum samples.

**Intra-Assay Precision:** Two serum samples were spiked with different recombinant mouse IL-21 concentrations and tested with 28 replicates in one assay.

Concentration	Sample 1	Sample 2
Number of Replicates	28	28
Mean Concentration (pg/mL)	161.4	21.7
Standard Deviation	8.2	0.98
% CV	5.1	4.5

**Inter-Assay Precision:** Two serum samples were spiked with different concentrations of recombinant mouse IL-21 and assayed in 3 independent assays by different operators.

Concentration	Sample 1	Sample 2
Number of Assays	3	3
Mean Concentration (pg/mL)	90.6	14.6
Standard Deviation	8.4	1.23
% CV	9.3	8.4

# LEGEND MAX™ Mouse IL-21 ELISA Kit

## Normal Biological Samples:

### *Normal Ranges*

Commercial mouse serum samples from 4 different strains were tested for endogenous IL-21. None of the samples showed any detectable levels of mouse IL-21.

### *Cell Culture Supernatant*

Mouse splenocytes ( $1 \times 10^6$  cells/mL) were stimulated with 10 µg/mL plate-coated CD3 and then 1 µg/mL of CD28. The cell culture supernatants were collected after 1 day and assayed for levels of natural mouse IL-21.

Stimulation Condition	Concentration (pg/ml)
CD3 + CD28	44.9
Unstimulated	ND

## Troubleshooting Guide:

Problem	Probable Cause	Solution
High Background	Background wells were contaminated	Avoid cross-well contamination by using the provided plate sealers. Use multichannel pipettes and change tips between pipetting samples and reagents.
	Insufficient washes	Increase number of washes. Increase soaking time between washes prior to addition of substrate solution.
	TMB Substrate Solution was contaminated	TMB Substrate Solution should be clear and colorless prior to addition to wells. Use a clean container prior to pipetting substrate solution into wells.
No or poor signal	Detection Antibody, Avidin-HRP or Substrate solution were NOT added	Rerun the assay and follow the protocol.
	Wrong reagent or reagents were added in wrong sequential order	
	Insufficient plate agitation	The plate should be agitated during all incubation steps using a plate shaker at a speed where solutions in wells are within constant motion without splashing.
	The wash buffer contains Sodium Azide (NaN <sub>3</sub> )	Avoid Sodium Azide contamination in the wash buffer as it inhibits HRP activity.
	Incubations were done at an inappropriate temperature, timing or without agitation	Rerun the assay and follow the protocol.
Low or poor standard curve signal	The standard was incorrectly reconstituted or diluted	Adjust the calculations and follow the protocol.
	Standard was inappropriately stored	Store the reconstituted standard stock solution in polypropylene vials at -70°C. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
	Reagents added to wells with incorrect concentrations	Check for pipetting errors and the correct reagent volume.

LEGEND MAX™ Mouse IL-21 ELISA Kit

Problem	Probable Cause	Solution
Signal is high, standard curves have saturated signal	Standard reconstituted with less volume than required	Reconstitute new lyophilized standard with the correct volume of solution recommended in the protocol.
	Standards/samples, detection antibody, Avidin-HRP or substrate solution were incubated for too long	Rerun the assay and follow the protocol.
Sample readings are out of range	Samples contain no or below detectable levels of the analyte	If samples are below detectable levels, it may be possible to use a larger sample volume. Contact technical support for appropriate protocol modifications.
	Samples contain analyte concentrations greater than highest standard point	Samples may require dilution and analysis.
High variation in samples and/or standards	Multichannel pipette errors	Confirm that pipette calibrations are accurate.
	Plate washing was not adequate or uniform	Ensure pipette tips are tightly secured. Ensure uniformity in all wash steps.
	Non-homogenous samples	Thoroughly mix samples before assaying.
	Samples may have high particulate matter	Remove particulate matter by centrifugation.
	Cross-well contamination	Do not reuse plate sealers.  Always change tips for reagent additions. Ensure that pipette tips do not touch the reagents on the plate.



# BioLegend®

LEGENDplex™ Kits are manufactured by **BioLegend**

8999 BioLegend Way

San Diego, CA 92121

Tel: 1.858.768.5800

Tel: US & Canada Toll-Free: 1.877.Bio-Legend (1.877.246.5343)

Fax: 1.877.455.9587

Email: [info@biolegend.com](mailto:info@biolegend.com)

[biolegend.com](http://biolegend.com)

For a complete list of world-wide BioLegend offices and distributors,  
please visit our website at: [biolegend.com](http://biolegend.com)