## Direct and quantitative detection of dicyandiamide (DCD) in milk

## using surface enhanced Raman spectroscopy

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## **Supplementary Information**

In order to determine the enhancement factor (EF) of silver colloid for detecting DCD in water, normal Raman spectrum of  $4 \times 10^{-2}$  g/mL DCD aqueous solution and SERS spectrum of  $5 \times 10^{-6}$  g/mL DCD aqueous solution under alkaline condition were recorded respectively (Fig. S2). It's worth noting that the actual concentration of DCD in solution subjected SERS measurement is  $4 \times 10^{-6}$  g/mL due to the dilution by silver colloid and aggregate agents. The enhancement factor of silver colloid was calculated according to the following equation:

$$EF = \frac{I_{SERS}}{I_{NR}} \times \frac{C_{NR}}{C_{SERS}}$$
(1)

 $I_{SERS}$  is the intensity of the selected band at 926 cm<sup>-1</sup> obtained by SERS,  $I_{NR}$  is the corresponding band intensity of the normal Raman spectrum.  $C_{SERS}$  and  $C_{NR}$  are the sample concentrations in the SERS and normal Raman measurements, respectively. Based on the characteristic peaks at around 926 cm<sup>-1</sup>, according to Eq. (1), an approximately  $2.88 \times 10^5$  fold of signal enhancement in the SERS spectrum was achieved.



**Figure S1.** SERS spectrum of  $5 \times 10^{-6}$  g/mL DCD in water under alkaline condition (top red line) and normal Raman spectrum of  $4 \times 10^{-2}$  g/mL DCD in water (bottom black line). (Offset for clarity, same scale).



**Figure S2.** SERS spectra of DCD solution using NaCl as aggregating agent with different concentrations (0.1M and 2M).