

1 **The effect of circulating neutralizing antibodies on the replication of SARS-CoV-2**

2 **variants following post-vaccination infections.**

3

4 Short title: SARS-CoV-2 viral dynamics and neutralizing antibodies

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43 ABSTRACT

44 The impact of pre-existing neutralizing antibodies (NAbs) titers on SARS-CoV-2 viral
45 shedding dynamics in post-vaccination infection (PVI) are not well understood. We
46 characterized viral shedding longitudinally in nasal specimens in relation to baseline
47 (pre/peri-infection) serum neutralizing antibody titers in 125 participants infected with
48 distinct SARS-CoV-2 variants. Among 68 participants who had received vaccinations, we
49 quantified the effect of baseline serum NAb titers on maximum viral RNA titers and on the
50 duration of infectivity. Baseline NAb titers were higher and efficiently targeted a broader
51 range of variants in participants who received one or two monovalent ancestral booster
52 vaccinations compared to those with a full primary vaccine series. In participants with Delta
53 variant infections, baseline NAb titers targeting Delta were negatively correlated with
54 maximum viral RNA copies. Per \log_{10} increase in baseline NAb IC50, maximum viral load
55 was reduced -2.43 (95% confidence interval [CI] -3.76, -1.11) \log_{10} N copies and days of
56 infectious viral shedding were reduced -2.79 [95% CI: -4.99, -0.60] days. By contrast, in
57 those with Omicron infections (BA.1, BA.2, BA.4 or BA.5 lineages) baseline NAb responses
58 against Omicron lineages did not predict viral outcomes. Our results provide robust estimates
59 of the effect of baseline NAbs on the magnitude and duration of nasal viral replication after
60 PVI (albeit with an unclear effect on transmission) and show how immune escape variants
61 efficiently evade these modulating effects.

62

63 INTRODUCTION

64 Circulating neutralizing antibodies (NAbs) against SARS-CoV-2 are associated with
65 protection against infection and disease and are induced following both SARS-CoV-2
66 infections and vaccination¹. However, NAb titers wane in the months following their
67 induction (through vaccination or infection) and time since vaccination correlates negatively
68 with protection^{2,3}. In addition, variants such as those descending from the B.1.1.529
69 (Omicron) lineage (with >30 amino acid mutations in the Spike protein relative to Wuhan-
70 Hu-1) can evade NAb targeting ancestral lineages and vaccine antigens⁴. This has
71 contributed to widespread post-vaccination infections (PVI), reinfections and ongoing waves
72 of community transmission, despite the use of distinct vaccine platforms and the provision of
73 booster vaccinations with updated vaccine antigens⁵. However, most vaccine doses received
74 globally, either as part of a primary vaccine series or through booster doses, have used
75 antigens derived from ancestral Wuhan-Hu-1⁶.

76

77 Numerous studies have assessed the effect of vaccination on viral replication dynamics and
78 infectiousness - key parameters linked to SARS-CoV-2 pathogenesis and transmission.
79 However, few studies have been able to directly assess how these outcomes relate to the NAb
80 response. For instance, the mRNA vaccine BNT162b2 can impact peak viral load in PVI
81 early after vaccination⁷, though the effect is transient and not observed in all studies of
82 outpatient cohorts^{8,9}. Likewise, data on the effect of mRNA vaccines on the duration of viral
83 shedding and infectiousness following PVI are conflicting¹⁰, with no reduction in the
84 incidence of household transmission in Delta infections^{9,11} particularly 12 weeks after
85 vaccination¹². In the present study, we determine the relationship between NAb titers -elicited
86 following vaccination and measured at the time of infection- and key virological parameters
87 in a longitudinal household cohort sampled intensely during the period of viraemia. Our

88 findings help quantify the protective effect of circulating NAbs against SARS-CoV-2 variants
89 with implications for the study of COVID-19 pathogenesis and for efforts to model SARS-
90 CoV-2 transmission in the context of novel prophylactic and therapeutic interventions.

91

92 **RESULTS**

93 **Cohort characteristics.**

94 A total of 174 participants (125 SARS-CoV-2-infected and 49 uninfected) from 78
95 households were enrolled and had blood collected from September 2020 through September
96 2022 in the San Francisco Bay Area. A median of 13 (range 3-15) nasal specimens and 4
97 (range 1-4) blood specimens were collected per participant, totaling 2471 and 664 specimens,
98 respectively. The demographic characteristics and vaccination histories of infected and
99 uninfected participants are shown in **Supp. table 1**. Participants were infected with distinct
100 variants including those that predated the emergence of variants of concern (preVOC),
101 Epsilon, Delta and Omicron (sub-lineages BA.1, BA.2, BA.4 or BA.5). Among infected
102 participants, 37/125 (29.6%) received a primary vaccine series and 31/125 (24.8%) received
103 one or two original monovalent booster doses. A total of 45/57 (85%) unvaccinated
104 participants were infected with preVOC viral lineages, 32/37 (87%) of those who received a
105 primary vaccine series were infected with Delta variants and 31/31 (100%) participants who
106 received original monovalent booster vaccinations had infections with Omicron variants.

107

108 **Viral shedding kinetics over the acute infection period**

109 Among infected participants, we quantified viral RNA and assessed the presence of infectious
110 virus longitudinally, by vaccine status (**Fig.1A**). Maximum viral RNA copies and the duration
111 of infectious virus shedding did not differ significantly by vaccine status (**Fig. 1B & C**).
112 Analysis of kinetics by variant, indicated that participants with BA.1 infections had a

113 significantly reduced maximum RNA load than those with pre-BA.1 infections or those with
114 BA.2/BA.4 and BA.5 infections (**Fig. 1D**). No differences were observed between variants
115 with regards to the duration of infectious virus shedding (**Fig. 1E**).
116

117 **Baseline neutralizing antibody titers in participants with post-vaccine infections**

118 Recruitment specimens were collected a median of 5 (interquartile range [IQR]: 4-5) days
119 post symptom onset (PSO) in infected individuals. To focus on NAb titers prior to the
120 induction of the anamnestic response following PVI, we excluded from our analysis
121 participants (N=22) with recruitment specimens obtained on day 7 PSO or later¹³. No
122 significant differences were observed in median NAb titers in recruitment specimens obtained
123 <7 days PSO between participants with PVI and uninfected participants stratified by
124 vaccination status (**Supp. Fig. 1**), indicating that baseline titers <7 days post-onset in infected
125 participants resembled those prior to infection rather than reflecting post-infection responses.
126 In addition, there was no difference in the time since last vaccine dose between PVI groups
127 (**Supp. Fig 2**)
128

129 We initially assessed the strength and breadth of the baseline NAb response (**Fig.2A**). We
130 observed that in participants with a primary vaccine series, titers against Omicron BA.1 and
131 BA.2 were reduced 6.6 (P>0.0001) and 3.2 (P<0.001) fold, respectively, compared to Wuhan-
132 Hu-1, and tended to be reduced 2.0 (P=0.08) fold against Beta. By contrast, in participants
133 who received booster vaccinations, no reduction in baseline NAb titers was observed against
134 Beta, and NAb titers were only reduced 2.4 (P=0.005) and 1.8 (P=0.001) fold against
135 Omicron BA.1 and BA.2, respectively (**Fig.2A**). Overall, 17/37 (46%) and 10/37 (27%)
136 participants with a primary vaccine series had undetectable NAb responses to BA.1 and
137 BA.2, respectively, compared to 1/31 (3%) and 0/31 (0%) of participants who received

138 booster vaccinations. Baseline NAb titers targeting the infecting variant for each participant
139 (except those with BA.5 infections for which response against BA.2 are shown) were higher
140 in those that had received vaccine booster doses compared to those who received a primary
141 series ($P<0.05$) (**Fig.2B**).

142

143 **Viral replication and duration of infection following PVIs are associated with baseline**
144 **NAb titers in a variant-specific manner.**

145 Given that the strength of the baseline NAb titers differed by targeted variant, we next
146 assessed the correlation between baseline NAb titers against the infecting variant (or BA.2 in
147 the case of BA.5 infections) and features of viral replication dynamics (**Fig. 3**). In
148 participants infected with Delta variants, we observed a significant negative correlation
149 between baseline Delta-specific NAb titers and both maximum viral RNA load ($R=-0.55$,
150 $P<0.0069$; **Fig. 3A**) and the duration of infectious virus shedding ($R=-0.5$, $P=0.014$; **Fig. 3B**).
151 In participants infected with Omicron variants, baseline titers against the infecting variant
152 were not associated with viral load or duration of infectious viral shedding (**Fig. 3C &D**).

153

154 To further quantify the effect of baseline NAbs on virological outcomes following PVI
155 (maximum viral load and duration of infectious shedding), we used multivariable linear
156 regression in separate models for participants with Delta and Omicron infections. We
157 adjusted for age and time since last vaccination (in Delta and Omicron infections) and,
158 additionally, for Omicron variant (BA.1 BA.2 or BA.5) in Omicron infections (**Table 1**). We
159 did not adjust for vaccine status in our two models, as vaccination status was colinear with
160 variant infection in our cohort. Higher baseline NAb titers were independently associated
161 with lower peak viral load and shorter duration of infectious viral shedding in Delta
162 infections; per \log_{10} increase in baseline NAb titer, we observed a -2.43 reduction in \log_{10}

163 maximum viral load (95% CI: -3.76, -1.11; P=0.0009; **Table 1**), and a -2.79 day reduction in
164 duration of infectious virus shedding (95% CI: -4.99, -0.60; P=0.02; **Table 1**). However, in
165 Omicron infections, no significant associations were observed between baseline NAb titers
166 and maximum viral RNA load or the duration of infectious virus shedding (**Table 1**). In line
167 with univariate results in figure 1D BA.1 infection was independently associated with
168 reduced maximum viral RNA titers compared to BA.2/4 (P=0.01) and BA.5 infections
169 (P=0.004).

170

171 **DISCUSSION**

172 Our findings show that following PVI (in persons vaccinated with ancestral spike antigens),
173 higher baseline NAb titers are associated with accelerated viral clearance dynamics following
174 infections with Delta variants, and we provide robust estimations to help quantify this effect.
175 In addition, we find that in participants with PVI, baseline NAb titers targeting a range of
176 variants up to BA.2 were increased in those who received booster vaccine doses compared to
177 a primary series alone, as previously reported ^{14,15}, and that booster vaccination was
178 associated with a greater breadth of response including robust responses against early
179 circulating immune escape variants Beta and P1. However, significantly reduced baseline
180 NAb titers targeting BA.1 and BA.2 variants were observed in all vaccinated participants, and
181 viral clearance was not influenced by NAb titers in participants infected with Omicron
182 variants. This suggests that NAb titers generated through first generation vaccines are limited in
183 their ability to target conserved epitopes in the spike protein of Omicron variants and support
184 the use of booster vaccination with updated antigens that may further broaden the NAb
185 response.

186

187 To accurately estimate maximum RNA titers and duration of shedding of infectious virus we
188 analyzed nasal specimens collected daily from participants. Studies assessing the effect of
189 vaccination status on viral shedding dynamics have reported contrasting results, with initial
190 studies suggesting an impact on peak RNA viral loads compared to unvaccinated individuals
191 following infection with Alpha variants¹⁶. However, reports of Delta and Omicron BA.1
192 infections in outpatient cohorts^{8,9,17} and in individuals 2-6 months after receiving the last
193 vaccine dose⁷, suggest no substantial impact on viral RNA load. Accordingly, our analysis
194 including unvaccinated individuals, indicated no association between vaccination status and
195 the virological outcomes assessed in our study. Taken together, this suggest that any positive
196 impacts of first-generation vaccines on viral shedding outcomes and consequently, on
197 transmission, may be rapidly lost (within 6 months following the last vaccine dose). In
198 contrast to the effect of vaccination, infection with Omicron BA.1 was associated, in both
199 univariate and multivariable analyses, with reduced maximum RNA titers compared to pre-
200 Delta, Delta and BA.5 infection, as previously suggested¹⁸. The mechanisms by which BA.1
201 remained infectious at low viral loads¹⁹, achieving attack rates that exceeded those of other
202 variants²⁰ with lower peak viral titers remains to be fully understood, although there is
203 evidence that mutations accumulated in Spike reduce the barrier to infection through
204 accelerated early infection kinetics and evasion of innate immunity compared to Delta and
205 pre-Delta variants^{21,22}.

206

207 Our study has some limitations. We were not able to measure baseline NAb titers to BA.5 or
208 to currently circulating Omicron variants, underscoring the importance of continued
209 monitoring of the strength and breadth of immune responses against emergent antigenically
210 divergent lineages such as JN.1. We used BA.2 as a proxy to estimate NAb responses to BA.5
211 in those who had BA.5 infections. Given that BA.5 descended from BA.2 and that all

212 vaccinations contained ancestral spike antigens, we expect the immune escape phenotype of
213 BA.5 to impact the results in figure 3C, 3D and Table 1 in similar manner to BA.2. In
214 addition, we were not able evaluate the impact of vaccine boosters containing updated spike
215 antigens, such as those containing sequences from XBB.1.5. Recent data suggest a further
216 broadening of the NAb response following monovalent XBB.1.5 booster with robust
217 targeting of JN.1²³. Whether efficient broadening of baseline NAb titers by updated vaccine
218 antigens leads to a restored correlation with viral shedding outcomes in PVI with currently
219 circulating variants warrants investigation. Similarly, defining the antigenic distance^{23,24}
220 between vaccine antigens and the infecting variant at which the correlation between baseline
221 NAb titers and viral clearance dynamics is lost warrants future study.

222

223 The quantification of the effect of baseline NAbs on viral clearance may help parameterize
224 mathematical models of transmission dynamics^{25,26} or immunobridging studies²⁷ following
225 the development of novel vaccines or the emergence of novel immune escape variants. To
226 this end, further assessments of the relationship between circulating NAbs, mucosal NAbs
227 and viral shedding dynamics are warranted, as the importance of the induction of mucosal
228 immunity to limit SARS-CoV-2 transmission is increasingly recognized²⁸⁻³⁰. Lastly, recent
229 studies have found early induction of memory T cell responses following PVI and have
230 linked these responses with protective immunity³¹. Quantification of the added contribution
231 of memory T cells to the early control of viral replication is critical to understanding the
232 correlates of protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection.

233 **METHODS**

234 **Study population and design**

235 This observational longitudinal cohort, recruited in the San Francisco Bay area, was designed
236 to characterize virological, immunological, and clinical outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infection
237 and household transmission dynamics, as previously detailed¹¹. Briefly, both index cases and
238 household contacts were recruited if an index case was identified from individuals with a
239 positive health provider-ordered SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid amplification test result on a
240 nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal (NP/OP) specimen done at UCSF-affiliated health
241 facilities.. Index cases were defined as being infected with SARS-CoV-2 within 5 days of
242 symptom onset by clinical nucleic acid amplification tests at study health facilities.
243 Household contacts were defined as cohabitants of the index case that did not report COVID-
244 19-like symptoms in the preceding week. Starting at enrollment, index cases and contacts
245 self-collected nasal specimens daily for 2 weeks –with day 0 defined as the day of symptom
246 onset of the index case– and on days 17, 19, 21 and 28. Specimens were stored at -20°C in a
247 designated freezer provided to the participants, collected weekly by study staff, and stored at
248 -80°C long-term. Venous blood specimens were collected at enrollment and during weekly
249 home visits at days 9, 14, 21 and 28 post-symptom onset of the index case. The timing in
250 days post symptom onset for each specimen was adjusted retrospectively for contact cases
251 according to self-reporting. A survey was performed at or before enrollment to collect
252 information on demographics, underlying conditions, prior infections, symptom start date and
253 vaccine doses received. This activity was reviewed by UCSF and CDC, deemed not research,
254 and was conducted consistent with applicable federal law and CDC policy (§See e.g., 45
255 C.F.R. part 46, 21 C.F.R. part 56; 42 U.S.C. §241(d); 5 U.S.C. §552a; 44 U.S.C. §3501 et
256 seq)

257

258 **Neutralizing antibody response assay**

259 The PhenoSense SARS CoV-2 nAb Assay (Monogram Biosciences, South San Francisco,
260 CA, USA) was used to determine NAb titers as described previously^{32,33}. Briefly, the assay
261 was done using HIV-1 pseudotype virions expressing SARS-CoV-2 spike proteins from
262 Wuhan-Hu-1, Beta, P1, Epsilon, Delta, BA.1 and BA.2. Virions were generated in HEK293
263 cells following co-transfection of a spike-encoding vector with an HIV-1 genomic vector
264 expressing firefly luciferase. Reduction in luciferase activity in infected HEK293 cells
265 expressing human Ace2 and TMPRSS2, following preincubation of pseudovirions with
266 serial solutions of patient plasma, was used to determine the 50% infectious dose (ID50).
267 NAb titers were determined at all available timepoints (days 7, 14, 21 and 28). Maximum
268 NAb titer was defined as the NAb titer on the day with the highest NAb titers against the
269 variant of interest, for each participant.

270

271 **RNA extraction**

272 RNA extraction from 200uL of nasal specimens was done using the KingFisher (Thermo
273 Scientific) automated extraction instrument and the MagMAX Viral/Pathogen Nucleic Acid
274 Isolation Kit (Thermo Scientific) following the manufacturer's instructions as previously
275 described⁸. For confirmatory RT-qPCR the Quick-DNA/RNA Viral MagBead kit (Zymo) was
276 used as previously described⁸.

277

278 **RT-qPCR assay**

279 For each RT-qPCR reaction, 4μL of RNA sample were mixed with 5μL 2x Luna Universal
280 Probe One-Step Reaction Mix, 0.5μL 20x WarmStart RT Enzyme Mix (NEB), 0.5μL of target
281 gene specific forward and reverse primers and probe mix as previously described⁸. RT-qPCR
282 were run for SARS-CoV2 N and E and for host mRNA RNaseP as a control for RNA

283 extraction. 8 μ M each of forward and reverse primers and 4 μ M probe for E; 5.6 μ M each of
284 forward and reverse primers and 1.4 μ M probe for N; and 4 μ M each of forward and reverse
285 primers and 1 μ M probe for RNaseP were used per reaction. Each 96 well RT-qPCR plate was
286 run with a 10-fold serial dilution of an equal mix of plasmids containing a full copy of
287 nucleocapsid (N) and envelope (E) genes (IDT), as an absolute standard for the calculation of
288 RNA copies and primer efficiency assessment. RTqPCR were run on a CFX Connect Real-
289 Time PCR detection system (Biorad) with the following settings: 55 $^{\circ}$ C for 10 min, 95 $^{\circ}$ C
290 for 1min, and then cycled 40 times at 95 $^{\circ}$ C for 10s followed by 60 $^{\circ}$ C for 30s. Probe
291 fluorescence was measured at the end of each cycle. All probes, primers and standards were
292 purchased from IDT. A sample was considered to contain SARS-CoV-2 RNA if both N and E
293 were detected at Ct <40. To control for the quality of self-sampling, RNase P Ct values 2
294 standard deviations from the mean of all samples were repeated or excluded. Maximum RNA
295 viral load was defined as the RNA value on the day with the highest RNA viral load for each
296 participant.

297

298 **Cytopathic effect (CPE) assay.**

299 All anterior nares samples up to 14 days post symptom onset (PSO) of the index case were
300 assayed for their ability to induce a cytopathic effect (CPE). In cases where CPE was still
301 positive within days 11–14, we continued to test samples beyond day 14 until three
302 consecutive samples were CPE negative. As described previously⁸, CPE was assessed on
303 Vero-hACE2-TMPRSS2 cells. Cells were maintained at 37 $^{\circ}$ C and 5% CO₂ in Dulbecco's
304 Modified Eagle medium (DMEM; Gibco) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum,
305 100 μ g/mL penicillin and streptomycin (Gibco) and 10 μ g/mL of puromycin (Gibco). 200 μ L of
306 nasal specimen was added to a well of a 96-well plate and serially diluted 1:1 with DMEM
307 supplemented with 1x penicillin/streptomycin over two additional wells. 100 μ L of freshly

308 trypsinized cells, resuspended in infection media (made as above but with 2x
309 penicillin/streptomycin, 5ug/ mL amphotericin B [Bioworld] and no puromycin) at 2.5×10^5
310 cells/mL, were added to each sample dilution. Cells were cultured at 37 °C and 5% CO₂ and
311 checked for CPE from day 2 to 5. After 5 days of incubation, the supernatant (200uL) from
312 one well from each dilution series was mixed 1:1 with 2x RNA/DNA Shield (Zymo) for viral
313 inactivation and RNA extraction as described above. Among specimens with visible CPE, the
314 presence of infectious SARS-CoV-2 was confirmed by RT-qPCR using N primers as
315 described above. Duration of infectious viral shedding was defined as days between symptom
316 onset and the last day of CPE positivity for each participant. All assays were done in the
317 BSL3 facility at Genentech Hall, UCSF, following the study protocol that had received
318 Biosafety Use Authorization.

319

320 **Sequencing.**

321 The ARTIC Network amplicon-based sequencing protocol for SARS-CoV-2 was used to
322 sequence the nasal specimen with the highest copies of viral RNA per participant. Thawed
323 RNA specimens were converted to cDNA using the Luna RT mix (NEB). Arctic multiplex
324 PCR primer pools (IDT) (versions 4.1 and 5.3.2) were used to generate amplicons that were
325 barcoded using the Native Barcode expansion kits 1–24 (Nanopore), pooled and used for
326 adaptor ligation. Libraries were run on a MinION sequencer (Oxford Nanopore
327 Technologies) for 16 hours. Consensus sequences were generated using the nCoV-2019 novel
328 coronavirus bioinformatics protocol using the MinIon Pipeline. Lineage determination was
329 done using the online Pangolin COVID-19 Lineage Assigner.

330

331 **Statistical analysis**

332 Categorical data was summarized as frequencies of the total population. Continuous data was
333 summarized with median values and interquartile ranges. Comparisons of group medians was
334 done using two-sided unpaired Wilcoxon rank sum tests. We assessed the relationship between
335 NAb responses and viral shedding dynamics, stratified by variant and vaccination status, in
336 unadjusted and adjusted analyses. Stratified by Delta vs Omicron infections, we used
337 multivariable linear regression to assess the effect of baseline NAbs on viral outcomes
338 (maximum RNA load, continuous variable; duration of infectious viral shedding, continuous),
339 adjusting for age, time since vaccination (months), and Omicron sub-variant. Data was
340 analyzed with custom scripts using R in RStudio (version2023.06.1+524).

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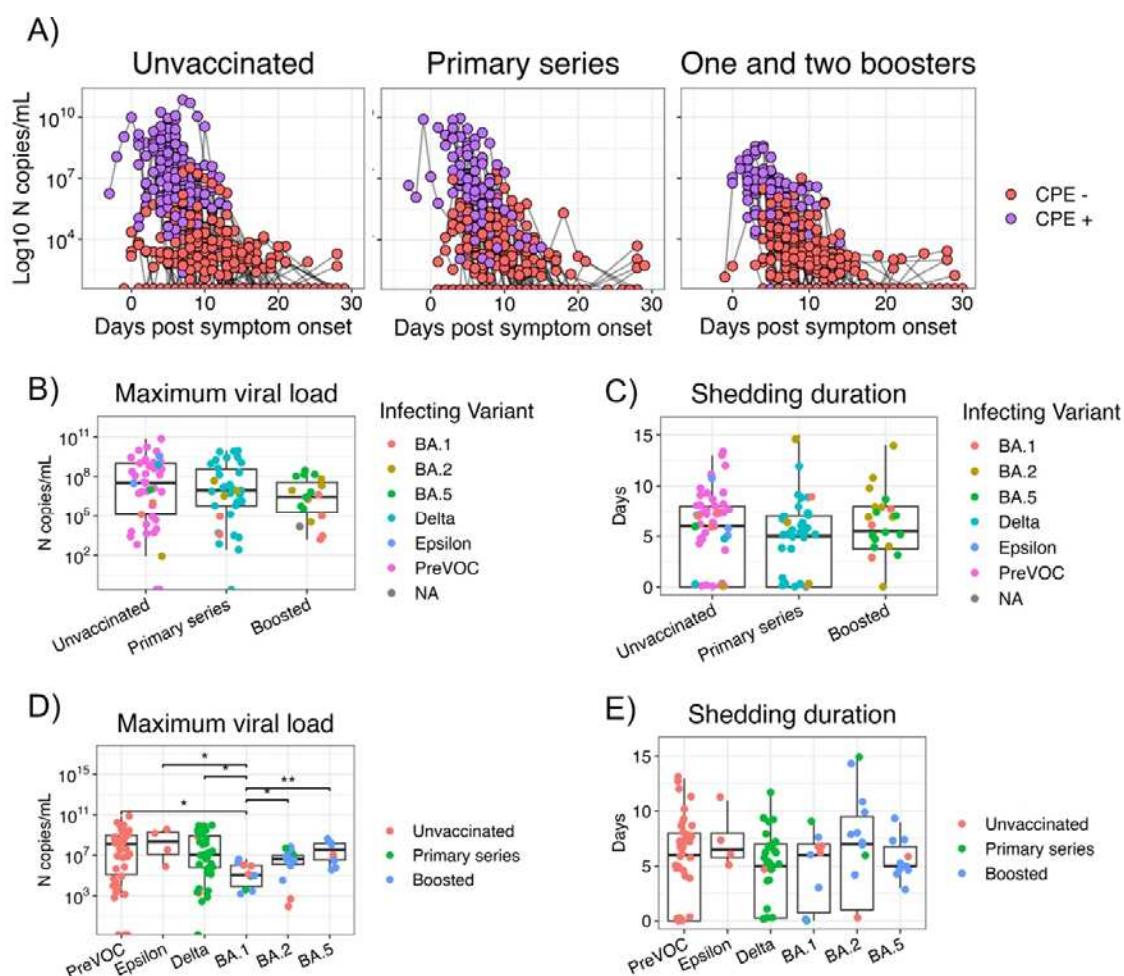
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437 not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and
438 Prevention.

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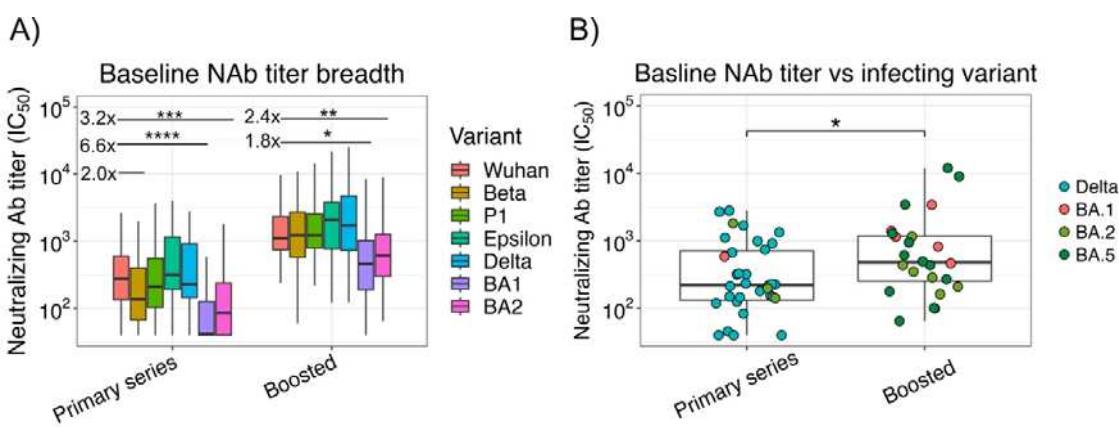
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441 **Figure 1. The influence of vaccination history and viral variant on viral shedding**
442 **dynamics.** A) Longitudinal viral shedding dynamics in nasal specimens collected over 28
443 days from symptom onset in unvaccinated participants (N=57) and participants with post-
444 vaccination infections (PVI) who received a primary vaccine series (N=37) or monovalent
445 booster vaccinations (N=31). Copies of SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid (N) RNA of each
446 specimen and the presence of infectious virus are shown. B) Comparison of median
447 maximum copies of N RNA between vaccine groups. C) Comparison of the median duration
448 in days which infectious virus was detected between vaccine groups. D) Comparison of
449 median maximum copies of N RNA in participants stratified by infecting variant. Vaccination
450 history is indicated by the colour shown in the legend. E) Comparison of median duration in

451 days which infectious virus was detected stratified by infecting variant. Vaccination history is
452 indicated the colour shown in the legend. All pairwise comparisons were made using a two-
453 sided Wilcoxon rank sum test. Only statistically significant differences are shown. * $P < 0.05$
454 and ** $P < 0.01$. CPE, cytopathic effect.

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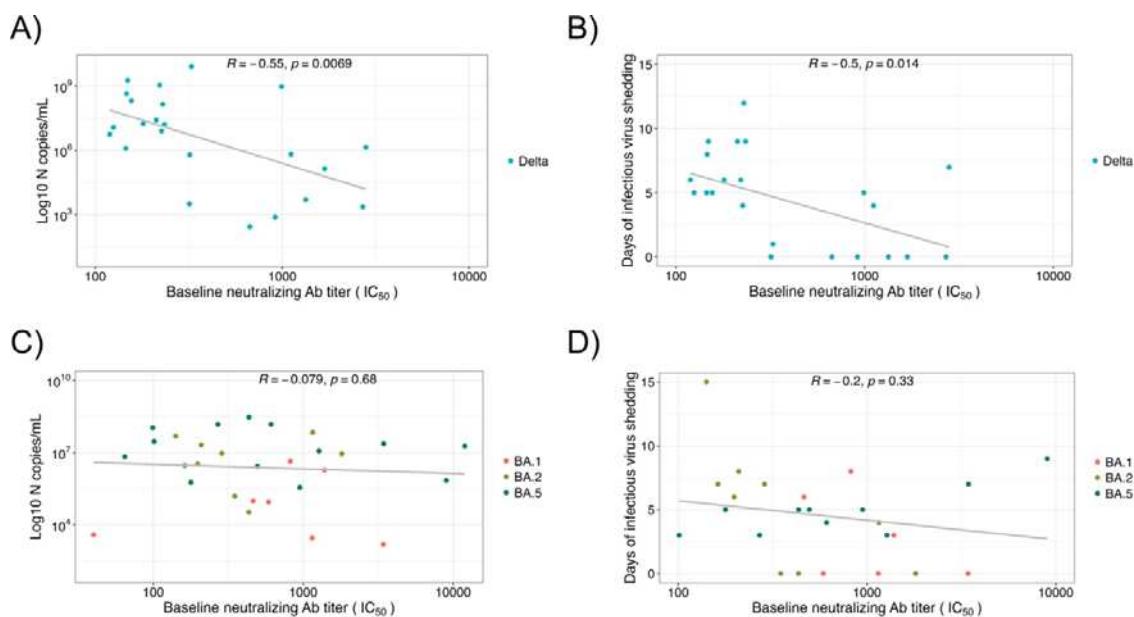
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458 **Figure 2. The magnitude and breadth of baseline NAb titers in participants with PVI.**

459 A) NAb titers targeting SARS-CoV-2 variants compared to Wuhan-Hu-1 in participants with
460 PVI who received a primary vaccine series or monovalent booster vaccinations. N=22
461 participants with recruitment specimens taken >7 PSO were excluded from the analysis. B)
462 Comparison of baseline NAb titers targeting the infecting variant (except for BA.5 infections
463 for which responses against BA.2 are shown) between participants with PVIs who received a
464 primary vaccine series or monovalent booster vaccinations. Statistical comparisons were
465 made using a two-sided Wilcoxon rank sum test. Comparisons with a P value < 0.1 are
466 shown. *P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001 and ****P < 0.0005.

467

468



469

470 **Figure 3. The relationship between baseline NAb titers and viral shedding outcomes.**

471 The correlation between baseline NAb titer targeting the infecting variant in vaccinated
472 participants (N=29) infected with Delta variants and maximum RNA viral copies (A) and
473 infectious virus shedding (B) over the study period. The correlation between baseline NAb
474 titer targeting the infecting variant (except for participants with BA.5 infections for which
475 responses were against BA.2) in vaccinated participants (N=29) infected with Omicron
476 variants and maximum RNA viral copies (C) and infectious virus shedding (D) over the study
477 period. Participants (N=9) with recruitment specimens taken on day 7 PSO or later were
478 excluded. Pearson's correlation coefficients and infecting variant are shown.

479

480

481 **Table 1:** Effect of baseline neutralizing antibody titer on maximum viral RNA load and duration of
482 infectious viral shedding in Delta and Omicron infections (N=29 participants in each group).
483

Independent variables	Maximum RNA load (log10 copies/mL)		Duration of infectious viral shedding (days)	
	Adjusted* linear regression coefficient (95% CI)	P value	Adjusted* linear regression coefficient (95% CI)	P value
Baseline NAb titer against Delta (log10)*	-2.43 (-3.76, -1.11)	0.0009	-2.79 (-4.99, -0.60)	0.02
Baseline NAb titer against Omicron (log10)**	0.23 (-0.58, 1.04)	0.55	-2.02 (-4.68, 0.63)	0.13

484 * Model adjusted for time since last vaccination and age.
485 ** Model adjusted for time since last vaccination, age and Omicron variant BA.1 and BA.2/BA.5
486

487

488

Supp. table 1. Participant characteristics (N=174).

Characteristic	SARS-CoV-2-Infected	SARS-CoV-2-Uninfected
Total	N=125	N=49
Case		
Index case*, n (%)	78 (62.4)	0 (0.0)
Household contact (%)	47 (37.6)	49 (100.0)
Sex, n (%)		
Female	65 (52.0)	25 (51.0)
Male	60 (48.0)	24 (49.0)
Age category, n (%)		
13-17	3 (2.4)	3 (6.1)
18-29	27 (21.6)	11 (22.4)
30-39	43 (34.4)	13 (26.5)
40-49	28 (22.4)	12 (24.5)
50-59	11 (8.8)	7 (14.3)
>60	13 (10.4)	3 (6.1)
Race/Ethnicity, n (%)		
Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity	28 (22.4)	10 (20.4)
White	54 (43.2)	23 (46.9)
Black or African American	4 (3.2)	3 (6.1)
Asian	18 (14.4)	6 (12.2)
Pacific Islander/ Hawaiian	2 (1.6)	2 (4.1)
American Indian / Alaska Native	2 (1.6)	0 (0.0)
NA	17 (13.6)	5 (10.2)
BMI, n (%)		
<25	51 (40.8)	21 (43.0)
25 to 29.9	32 (25.6)	16 (32.7)
>30	25 (20.0)	6 (12.2)
NA	17 (13.6)	6 (12.2)
COVID-19 vaccination status**, n (%)		
<i>Unvaccinated</i>	57 (45.6)	21 (42.9)
<i>Primary series</i>	37 (29.6)	12 (24.5)
Median (IQR) days since most recent dose	182 (123-229)	115 (89-150)
Most recent dose <180 days before baseline	23 (62.2)	12 (100)
Most recent dose 180+ days before baseline	14 (37.8)	0 (0)
<i>One or two boosters</i>	31 (24.8)	15 (30.6)
Median (IQR) days since most recent dose	178 (107-227)	109 (43-191)
Most recent dose <180 days before baseline	13 (41.9)	10 (66.7)
Most recent dose 180+ days before baseline	18 (58.1)	5 (33.3)

Variant, n (%)***		
Pre-VOC	45 (36.0)	NA
Epsilon	4 (3.2)	NA
Delta	34 (27.2)	NA
Omicron BA.1	10 (8.0)	NA
Omicron BA.2, BA.4 or BA.5	32 (25.6)	NA

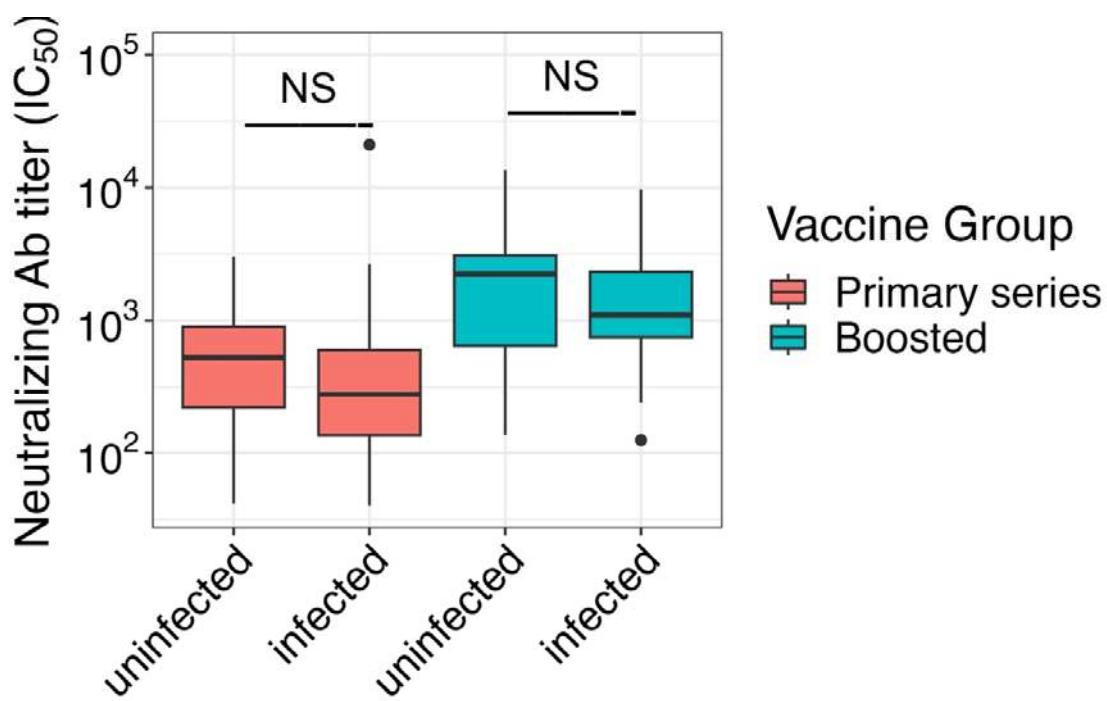
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490 *SARS-CoV-2 infected participant approached in each household

491 ** Last vaccine dose 4 weeks or greater before study enrolment. 170/174 participants received either BNT162b2 (Pfizer) or
492 mRNA-1273 (Moderna) primary vaccine series and when indicated, monovalent boosters. Two infected individuals received
493 a Ad26.COV2.S (Janssen) primary series, one uninfected participant received a Ad26.COV2.S (Janssen) primary series and
494 one uninfected participant a AZD1222 (AstraZeneca) primary series.

495 *** Determined by sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from the participant or cohabiting participant's nasal specimen.

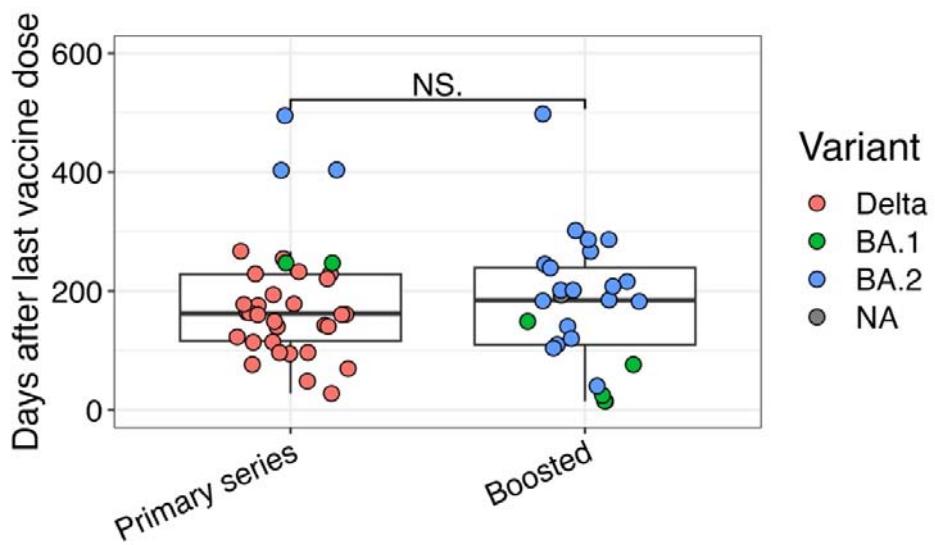
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498 **Supplementary figure 1. NAb titers collected at recruitment in uninfected and infected**
499 **participants.** Comparison of NAb titers in recruitment specimens against Wuhan-Hu-1 in
500 infected and uninfected participants stratified by vaccination status. Recruitment specimens
501 were collected <7 days following symptom onset in infected individuals. Statistical
502 comparisons were done within vaccination groups by Wilcox test. NS, not significant.

503



504

505 **Supplementary figure 2. Time since last vaccine dose in vaccinated participants.**

506 Comparison of the days since the last vaccine dose in participants who received a primary

507 vaccine series or booster vaccinations. Statistical comparison done by Wilcox test. NS, not

508 significant.

509