

# Strain evolution and host response in patients



Weill Cornell  
Medicine



@mason\_lab

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Fellow of the Information Society Project, Yale Law School

October 15, 2020

**What you need to know:** Tracking the Reopening of New York City

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Prognosis

# Why New York Suffered When Other Cities Were Spared by Covid-19

The mayor, the CDC and a New York disease expert weigh in

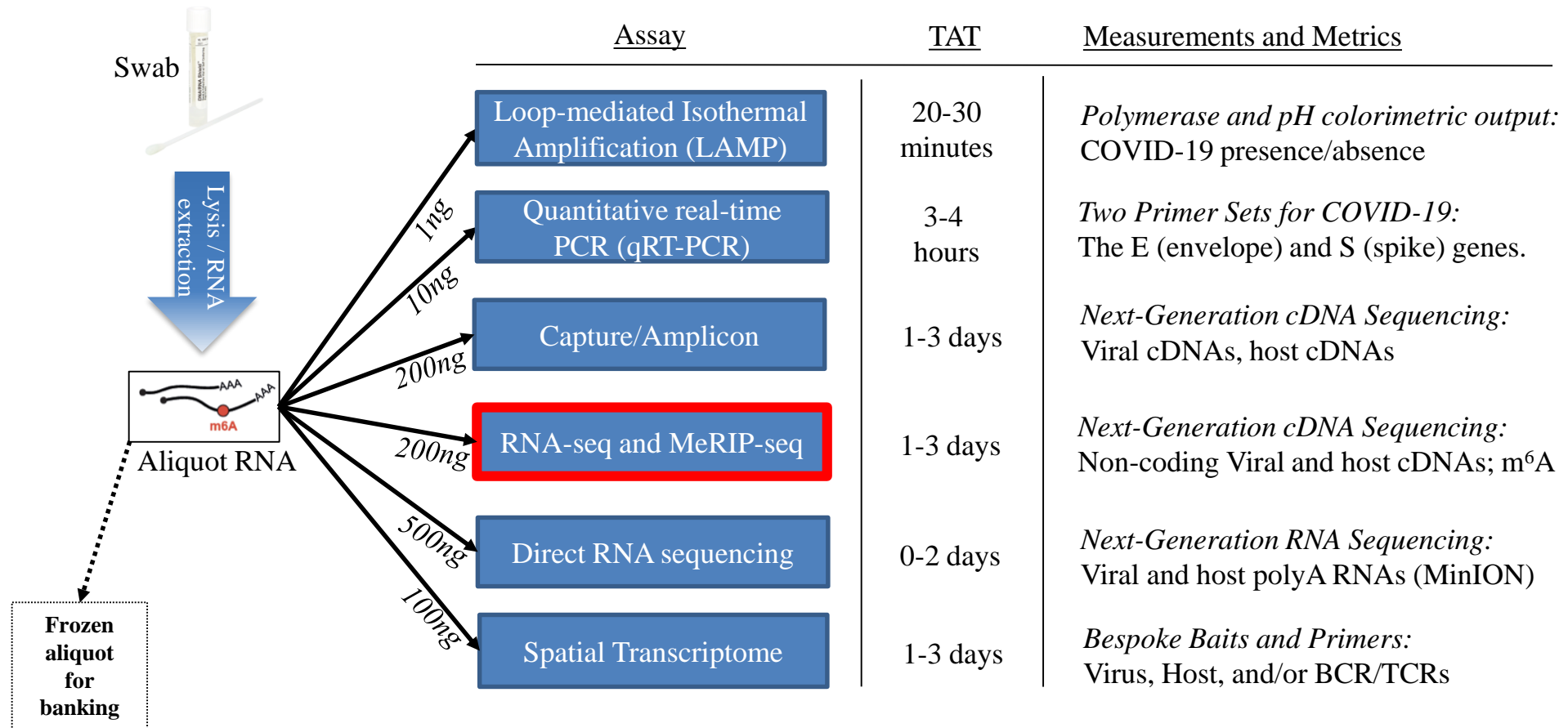
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By Drew Armstrong, Henry Goldman, and Keshia Clukey

May 28, 2020, 9:51 AM EDT

>23,000 Deaths

# Deep characterization of COVID-19 samples has a short and long-term benefit



# 857 COVID-19 samples' total RNA-seq (63.2M 150x150 PE reads)

857 clinical specimens from  
735 NYP-WCMC patients  
with known or suspected  
SARS-CoV-2 infection



86 NYC  
Subway  
Specimens

Swab

RNA  
extraction

1ng

10ng

10ng



**Assay**

**Time**

**Reagents**

**Result**

Loop-mediated  
Isothermal  
Amplification  
(LAMP)

30-40 minutes

One primer sextet  
for SARS-CoV-2

Color change representing  
level of SARS-CoV-2  
E (envelope) and N (nucleocapsid)  
gene in specimen

qRT-PCR

3-4 hours

Two primer sets  
for SARS-CoV-2

Ct representing  
level of SARS-Cov2 E (envelope)  
and S (Spike) gene in specimen

Total RNA-seq

8 hours -  
2 days

Random Hexamers

Shotgun metatranscriptomes  
of all host and species  
RNA sequences in specimen

## 1) 735 suspected COVID-19 patients:

COVID-19-POS, n=216

COVID-19-NEG, n=519

## 2) 86 Environmental (54 sites)

Grand Central

Times Square

## 3) 36 Controls

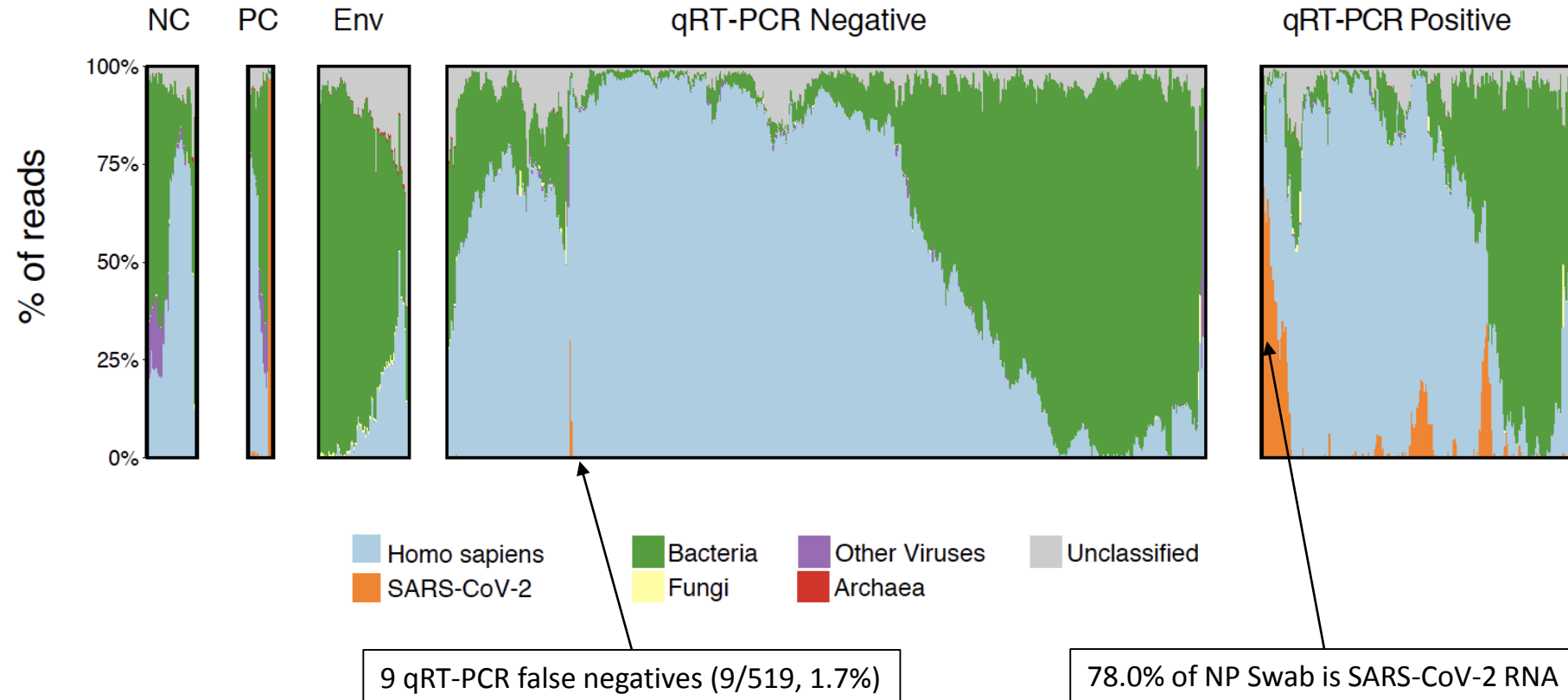
CP (Vero E6 Cells w/ SARS-CoV-2)

Twist Synthetic RNA (2 strains)

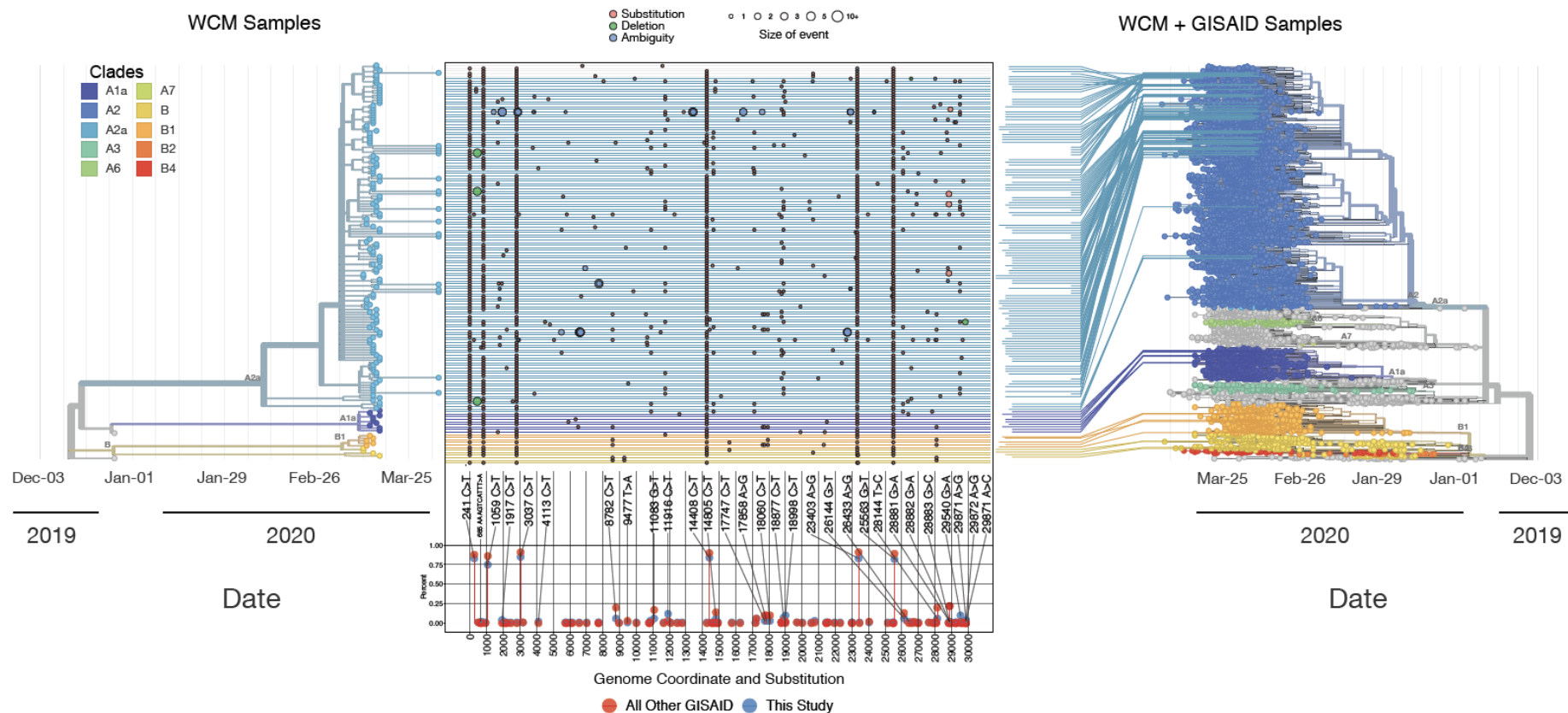
Negative Controls (TE buffer)



# Mostly human, bacterial, viral RNA in the NP swabs



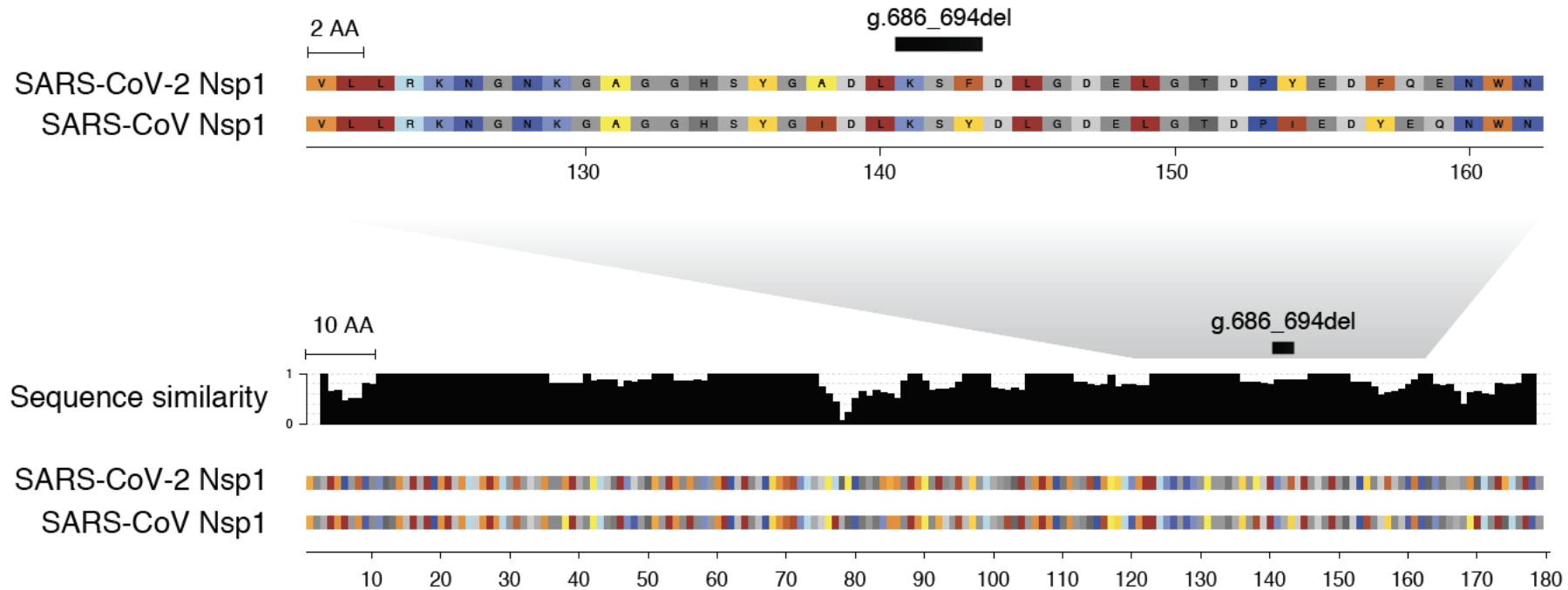
# We can trace the evolutionary history of the virus



N=155 full covered and assembled genomes

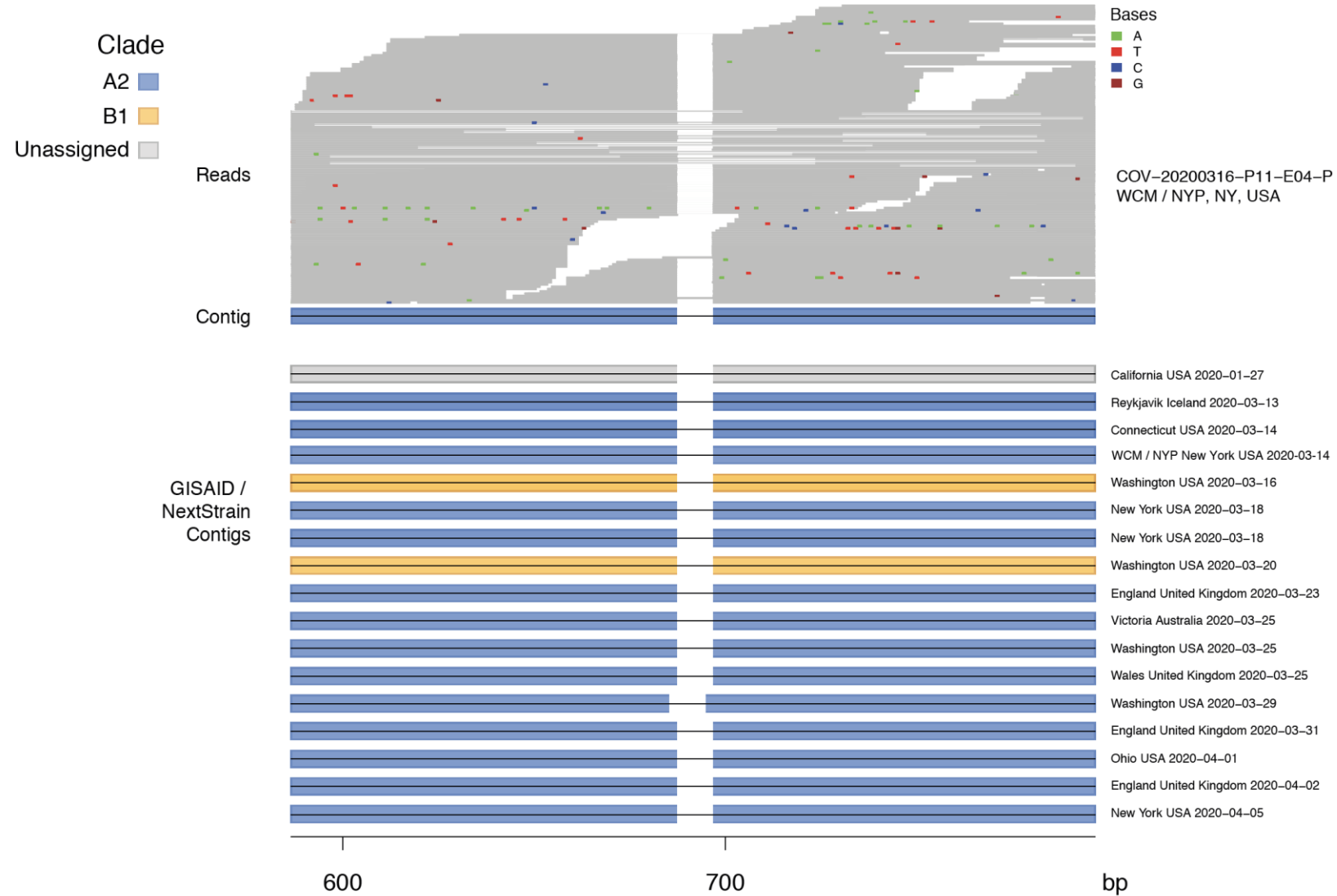
<https://nextstrain.org/ncov>

# We see a unique deletion in three samples that removes a CoV-2 specific AA change relative to SARS CoV



A conserved portion of the C-terminal region of NSP1, which has been linked to host chemokine dysregulation and translational inhibition in SARS-CoV.

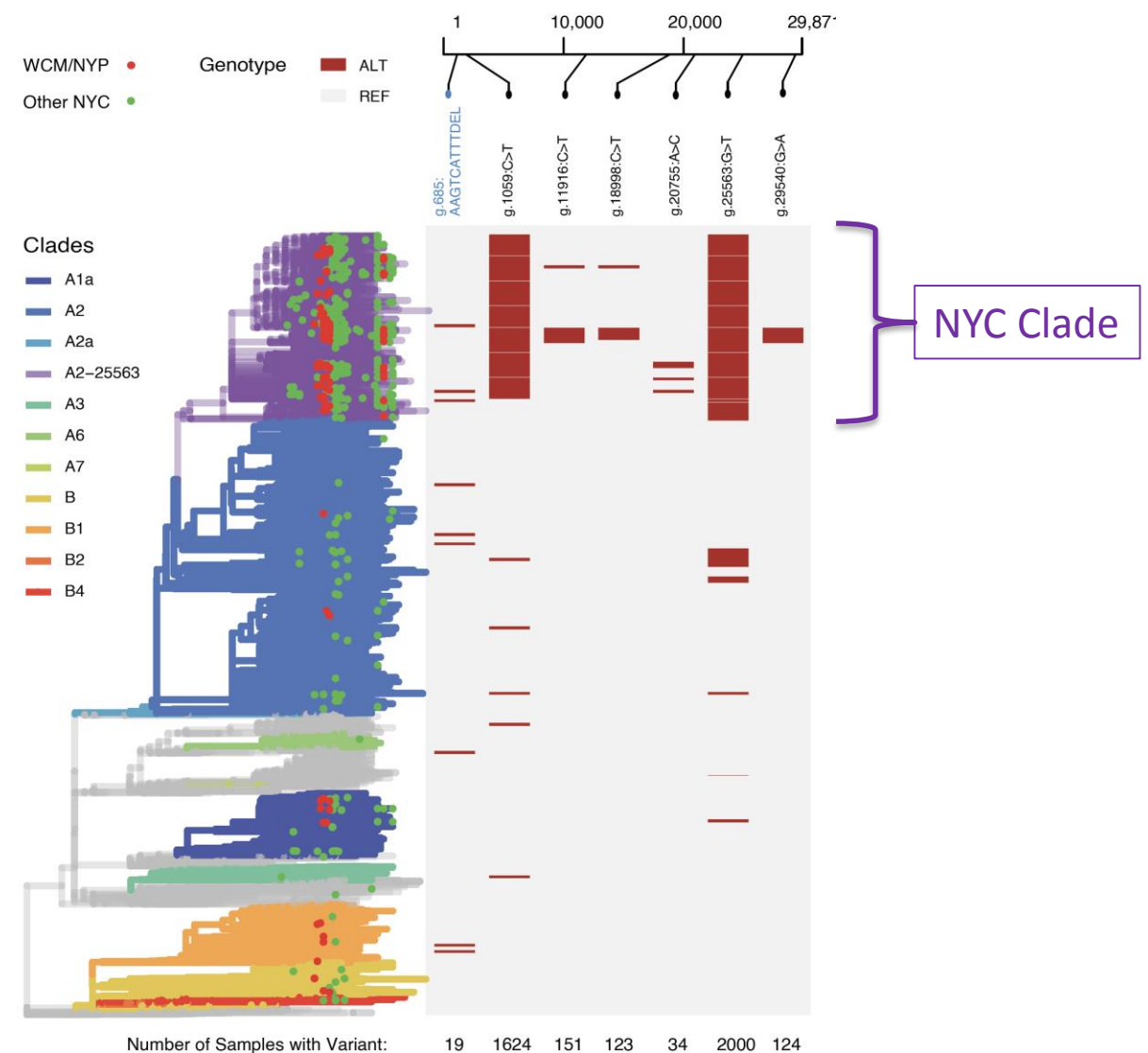
# We aren't the only ones



NC\_045512.2

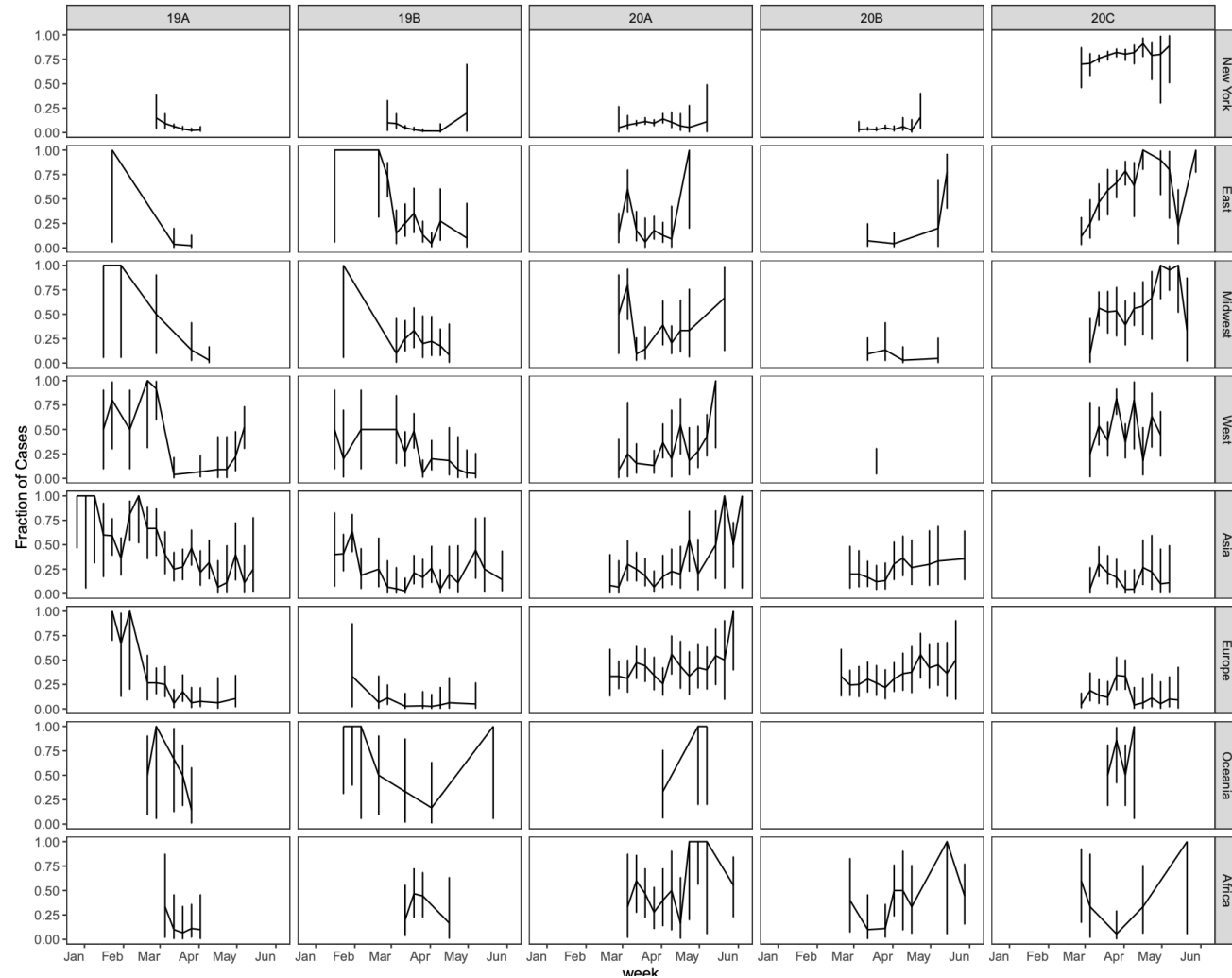


# Our “NYC clade” also appears in NYU/Sinai strains

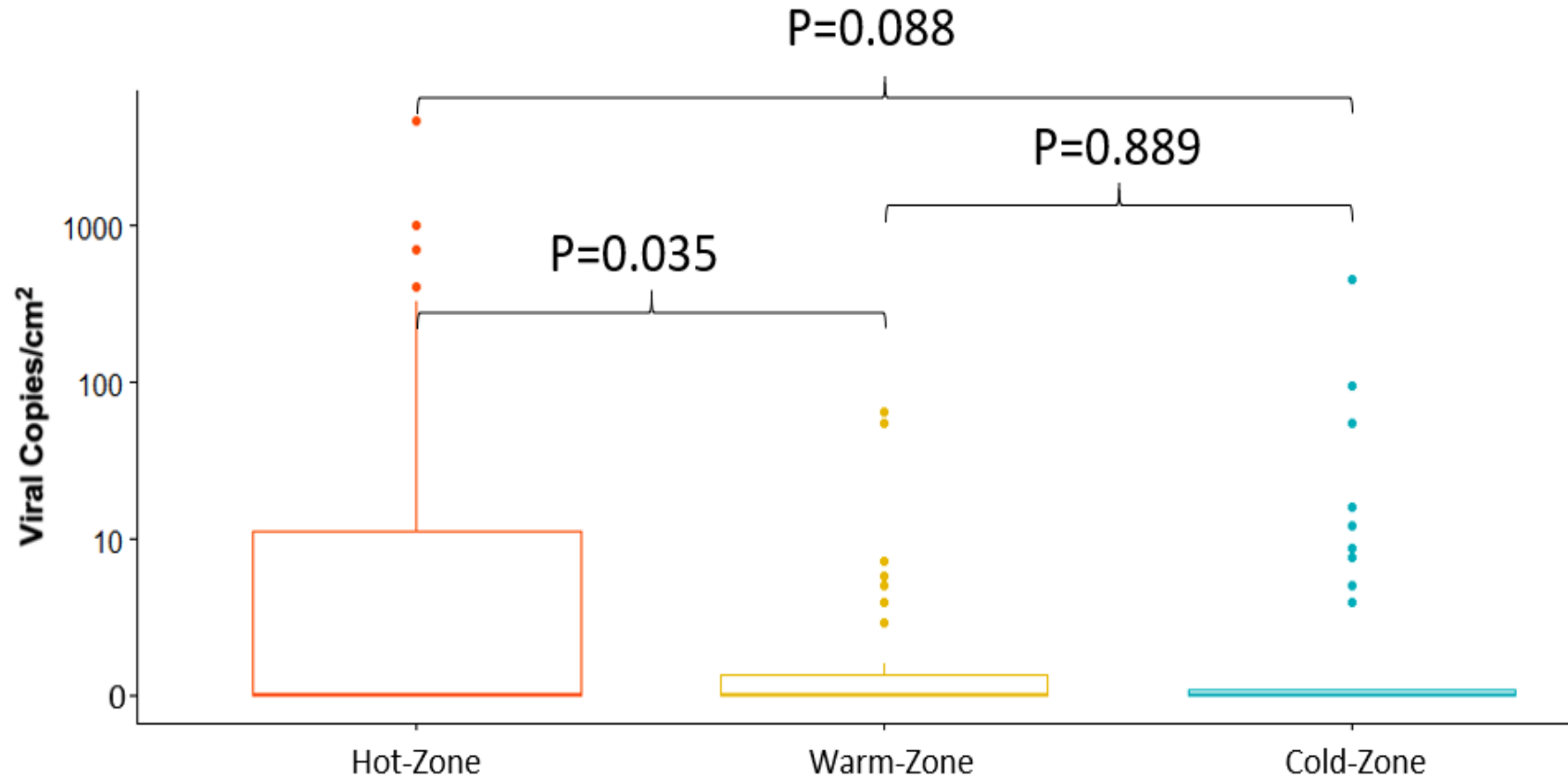


# This NYC-enriched strain is highly dynamic around the world

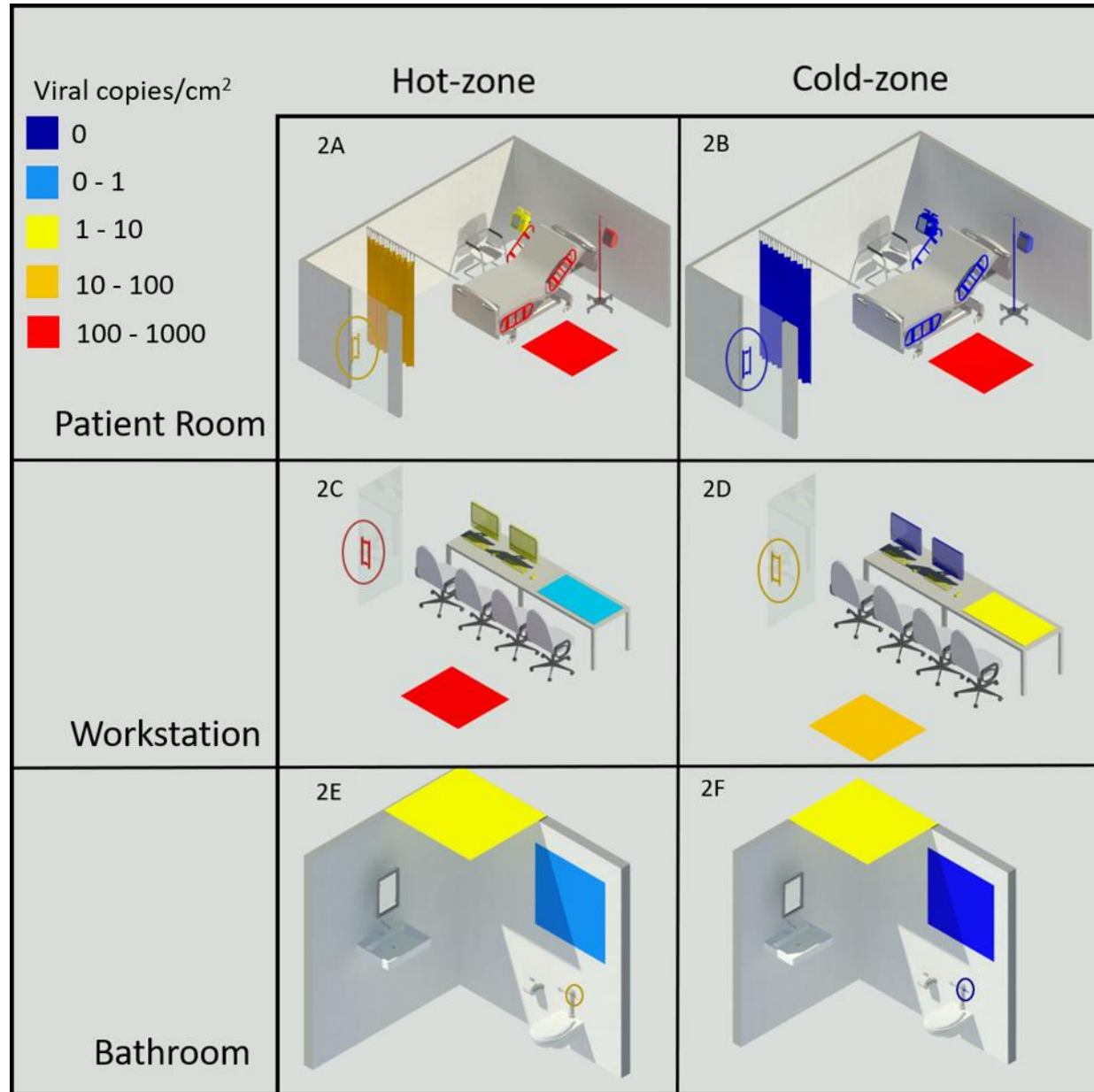
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# Hospital Surfaces with SARS-CoV-2?

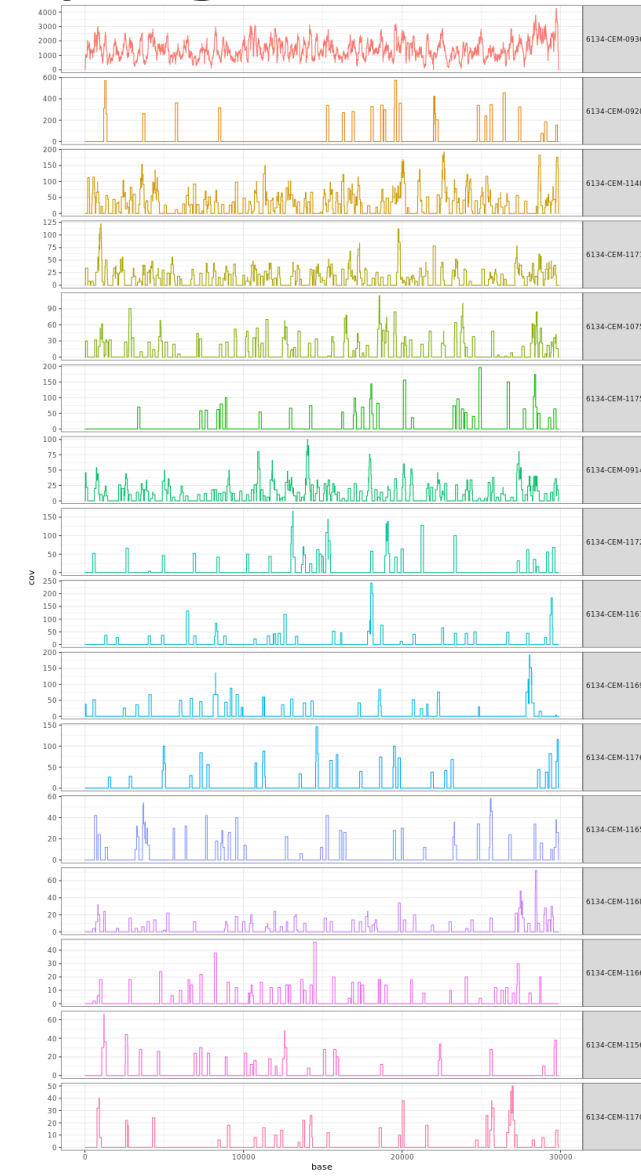
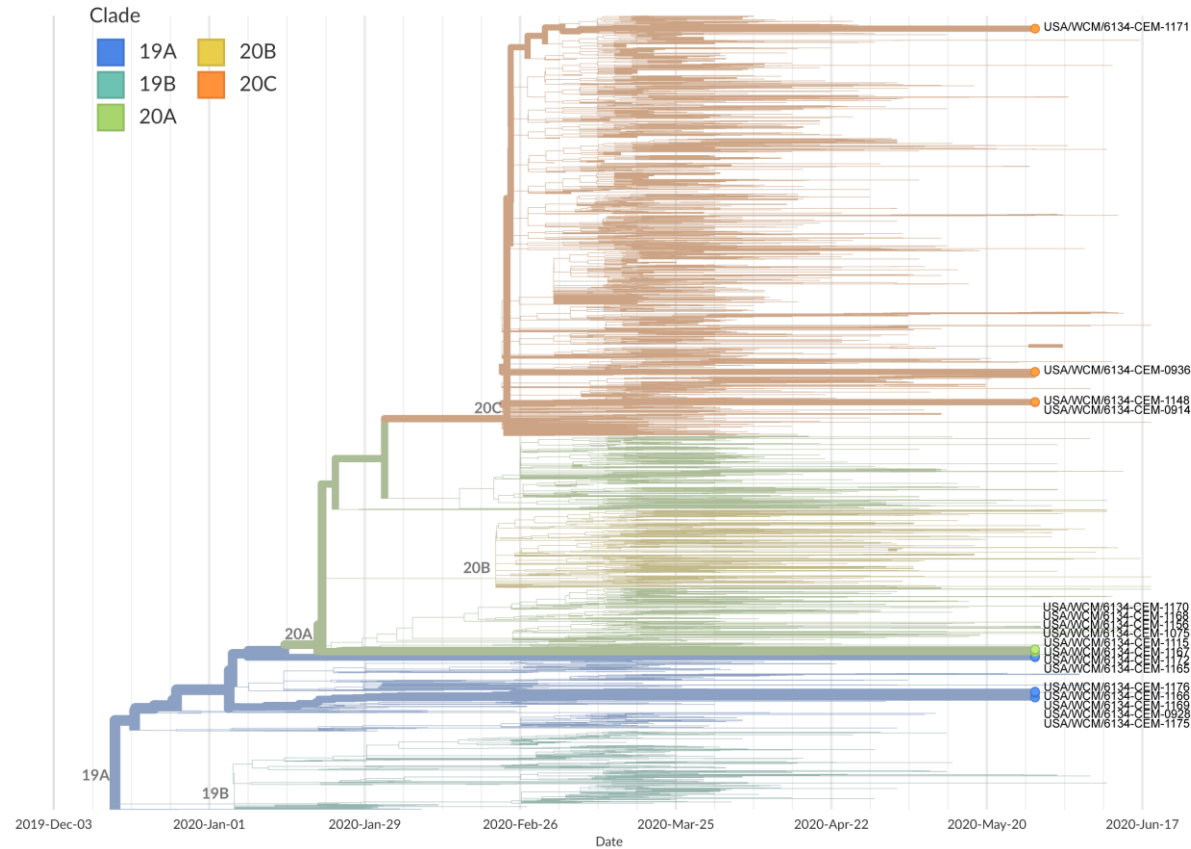


# Hospital Surfaces Distribution



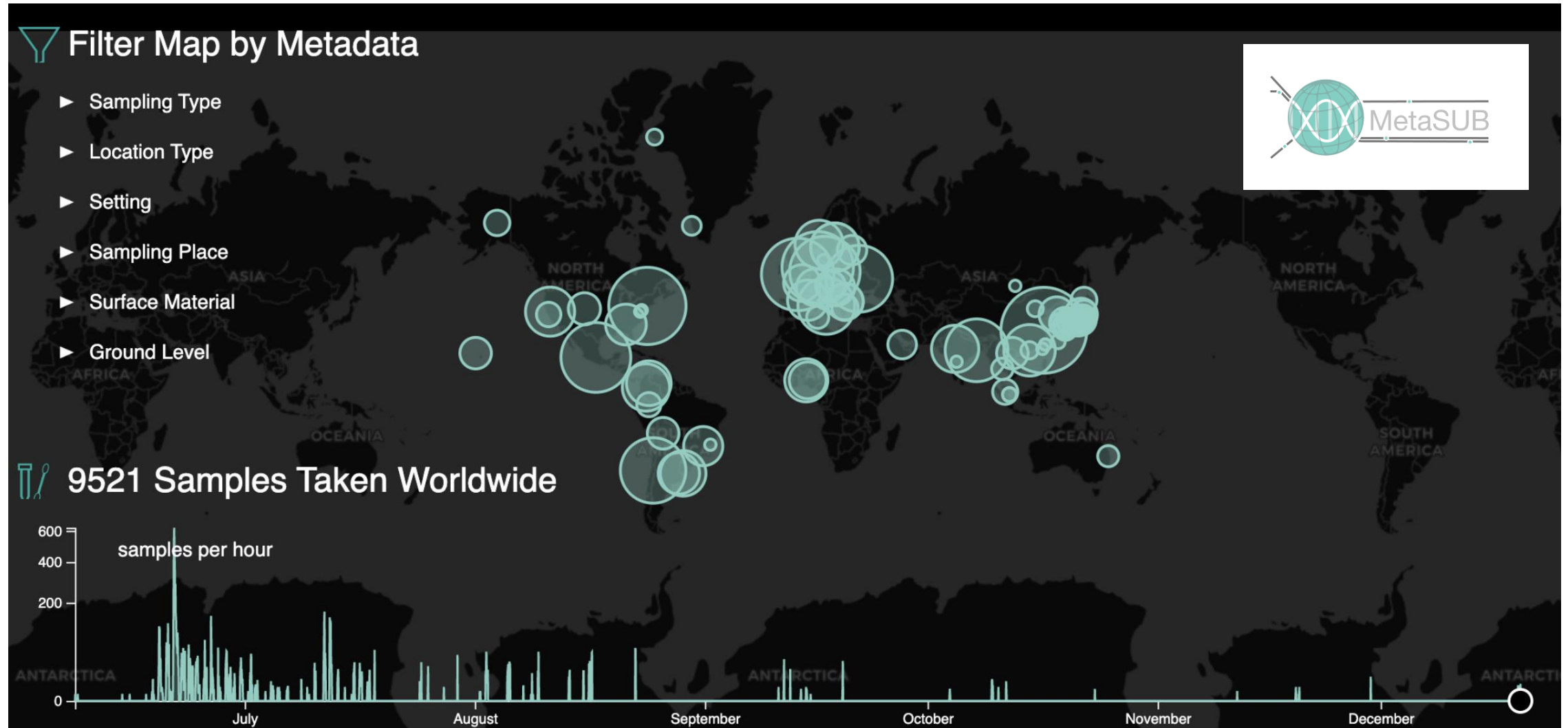


# The hospital walls tell a story too; genome coverage and phylogenies



# COVID and MetaSUB Leverage a global network of scientists

The International MetaSUB Consortium started sampling on Monday, March 16th in public surfaces and hospitals



# SARS – CoV-2 RNA Virus Tracking 2020 with MetaSUB

## Sampling Kit includes:

- 1 Isohelix Bucal Swab
- 1 TFS Barcoded Tube
- 200ul Zymo DNA/RNA Shield

## Sampling Kits for Pilot Projects:

17 x 96 = 1,632

## Projected Sampling Kits for RNA Virus Tracking 2020:

10,272

## Sampling Locations:

- 59 Cities (12 hospitals)
- 25 Countries
- 6 Continents

## Bioinformatics and Analysis:

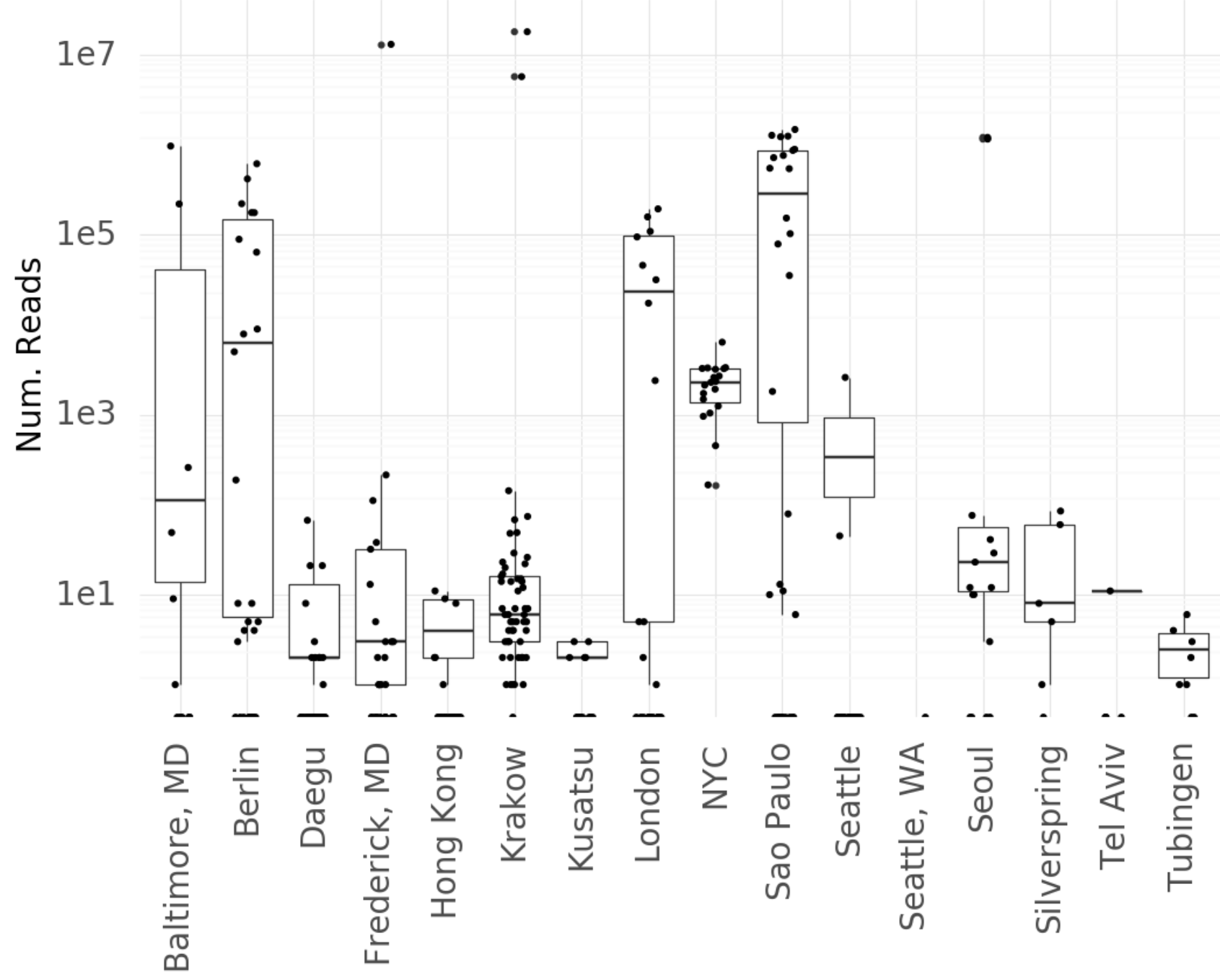
327 members from universities  
and industry



# Preliminary list of RNA-based subway passengers:

TaxID	Taxon	TaxonName	rank	avg
0	x__unclassified	unclassified	U	32062199
9606	d__Eukaryota	Homo sapiens	S	11329363
56947	d__Viruses f	Choristoneura fumiferana granulovirus	S	5421.1233
12242	d__Viruses f	Tobacco mosaic virus	S	3466.8062
11320	d__Viruses p	Influenza A virus	S	3287.9371
162145	d__Viruses p	Human metapneumovirus	S	2527.9019
1392231	d__Viruses c	Streptococcus phage 20617	S	1788.0316
1969841	d__Viruses c	Proteus phage VB_PmiS-Isfahan	S	1616.7909
1188792	d__Viruses f	Phaseolus vulgaris alphaendornavirus 1	S	1095.1807
1414655	d__Viruses p	Pepper chlorotic spot virus	S	552.81272
425279	d__Viruses f	Rehmannia mosaic virus	S	422.59027
1980484	d__Viruses p	Oxbow orthohantavirus	S	394.41437
2560751	d__Viruses c	Serratia virus BF	S	384.72824
1979161	d__Viruses p	Human rubulavirus 4	S	352.10111
929814	d__Viruses c	Salmonella phage RE-2010	S	316.31429
129951	d__Viruses f	Human mastadenovirus C	S	315.18038
2169967	d__Viruses c	Escherichia virus DE3	S	309.16571
1141136	d__Viruses c	Cronobacter phage vB_CsaM_GAP32	S	274.03831





ANIMALS | CORONAVIRUS COVERAGE

## Tiger tests positive for coronavirus at Bronx Zoo, first known case in the world

The big cat is the first known case of a non-domesticated animal with COVID-19 symptoms—and is one of seven sick tigers at the New York zoo.



A Malayan tiger at the Bronx Zoo, photographed in 2017. In a first, one of the zoo's Malayan tigers, Nadia, has tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19. Six other big cats are also showing symptoms of the illness.

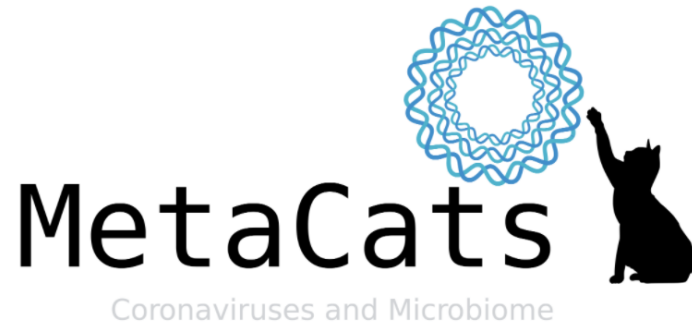
PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW LICHTENSTEIN, CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES

## INTRODUCTION

### MetaCats: Domestic Cats Coronaviruses & Microbiome

The project, launched in 2020, aims at investigating the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 and other coronaviruses in domestic cats, along with their microbial communities or microbiomes.

While the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic produced by the virus SARS-CoV-2 has been well studied to address the effect on human health, little is known about the effect that the virus might have on domestic animals, especially in cats.



## BACKGROUND

Pet ownership has been pointed to as an important factor in determining the human microbiome, from skin to gut.

Recent studies suggest that pets can help to the development of a healthy immune system, while others point that they could act as potential carries of pathogens.

<http://metasub.org/metacats/>



## STOOL SAMPLE



## MOUTH SAMPLE

AIM: TO STUDY THE PREVALENCE OF **SARS-COV-2** AND OTHER CORONAVIRUSES IN *DOMESTIC CATS*,  
ALONG WITH THEIR MICROBIAL COMMUNITIES OR MICROBIOMES.



### EASY

Registration is easy and will let you know if you and your cat qualify for the study



### FREE

Participation is entirely free and all supplies will be shipped to your home for your use



### SAFE

Our utmost priority is the safety of yourself and your cat. Sampling is safe and simple.



### CITIZEN-SCIENCE

By registering for this project you are supporting citizen-science and contributing to important research.

<http://metasub.org/metacats/>

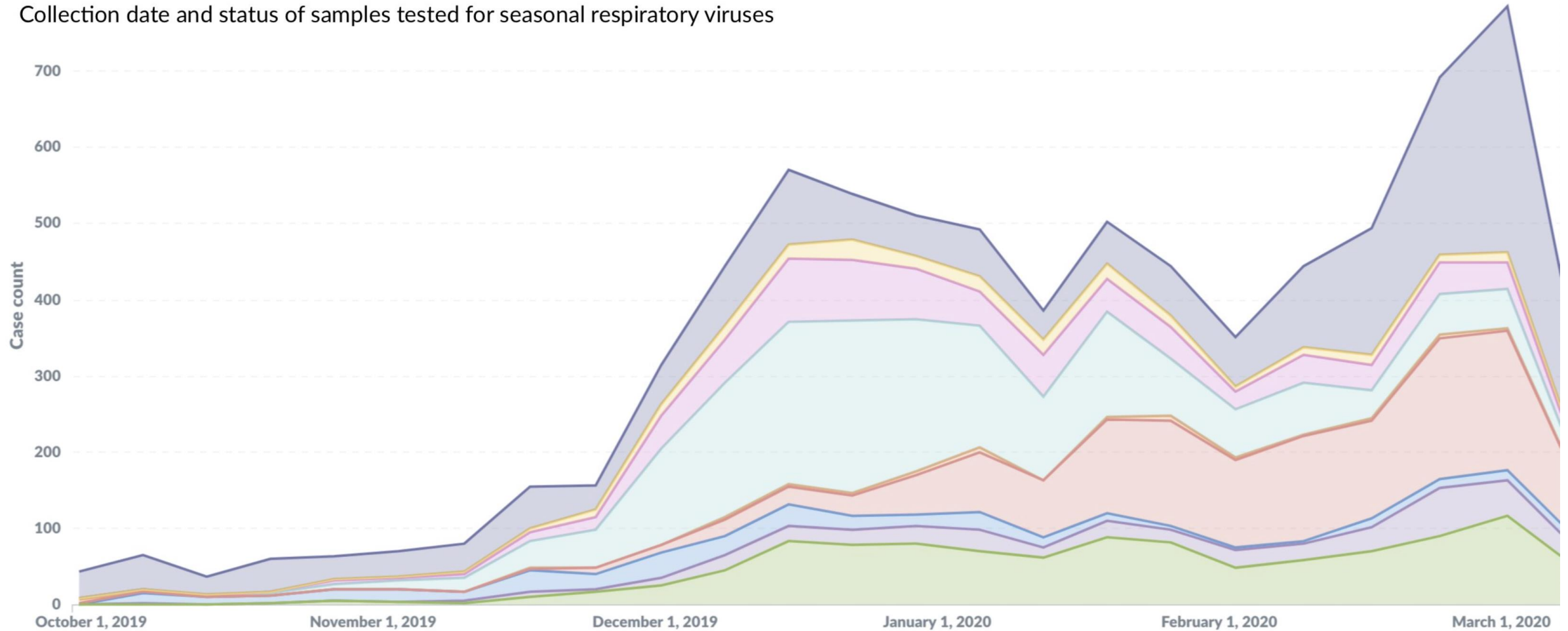


# Who else is there?

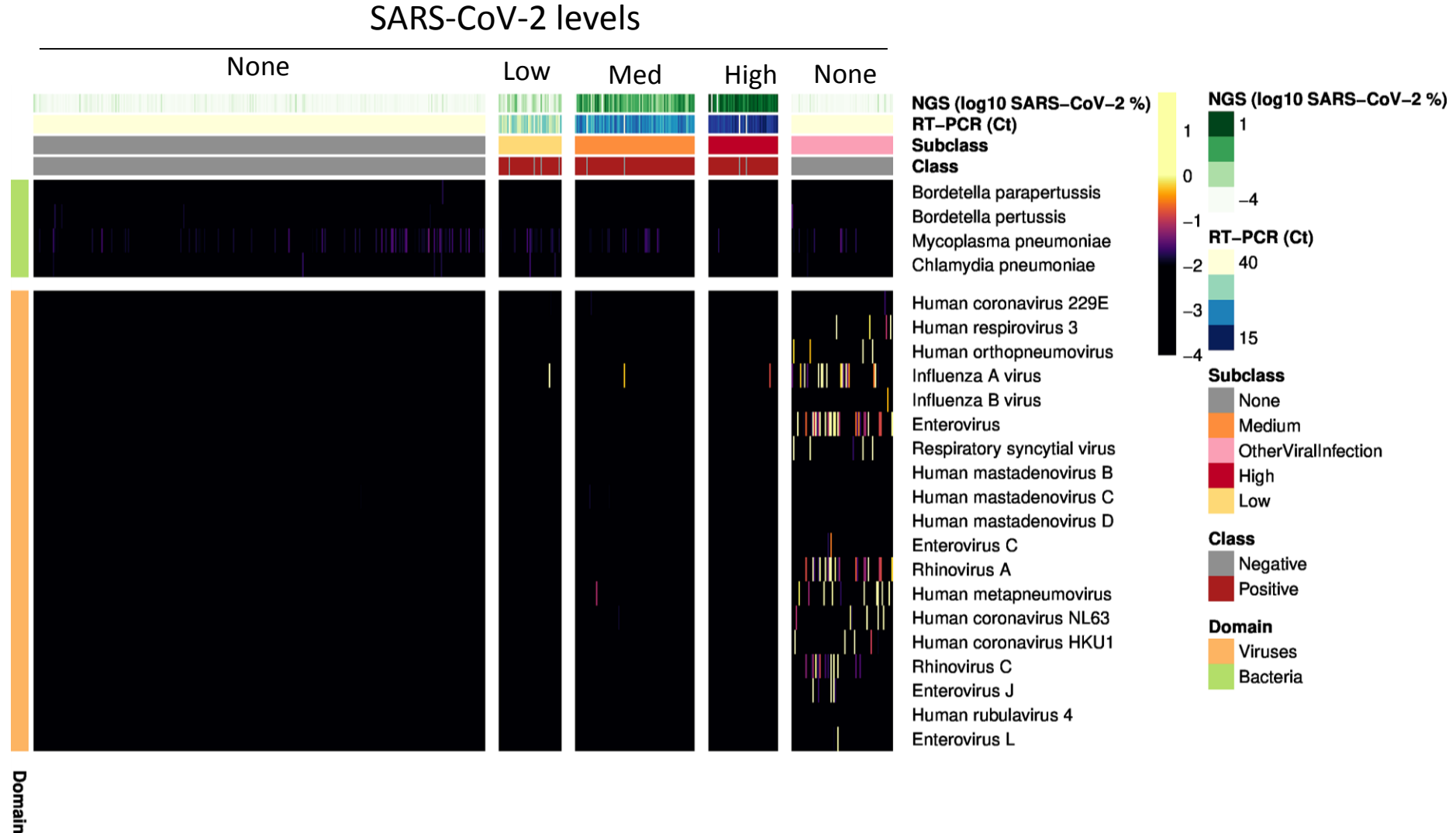
Data from @seattleflustudy and Trevor Bedford (@trvrb)

seasonal coronavirus   metapneumovirus   parainfluenza   influenza A/H1N1   influenza A/H3N2   influenza B   RSV/A   RSV/B   rhinovirus

Collection date and status of samples tested for seasonal respiratory viruses



# Co-infection is rare

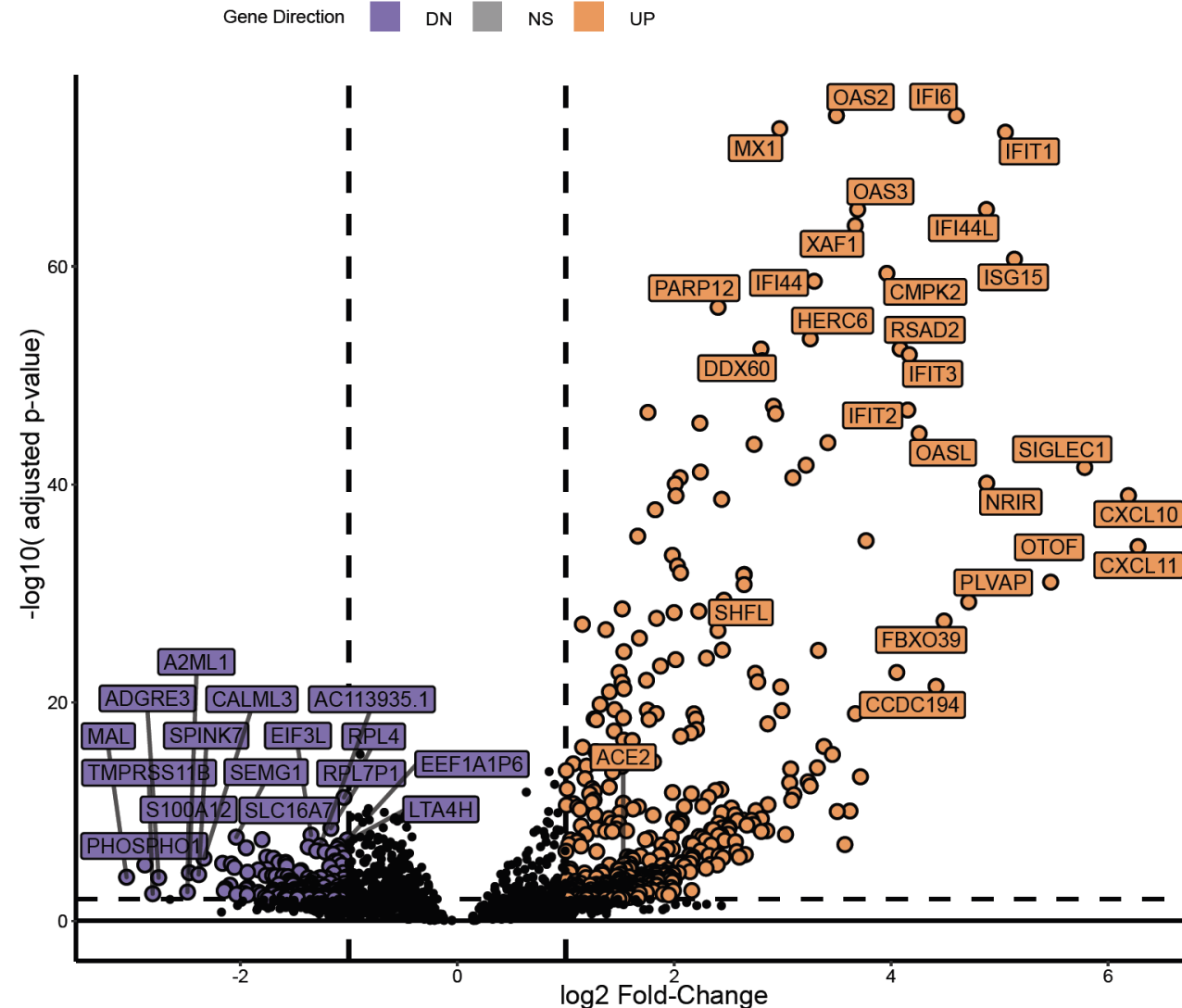


# Microbiome Disruption in High Titer Patients

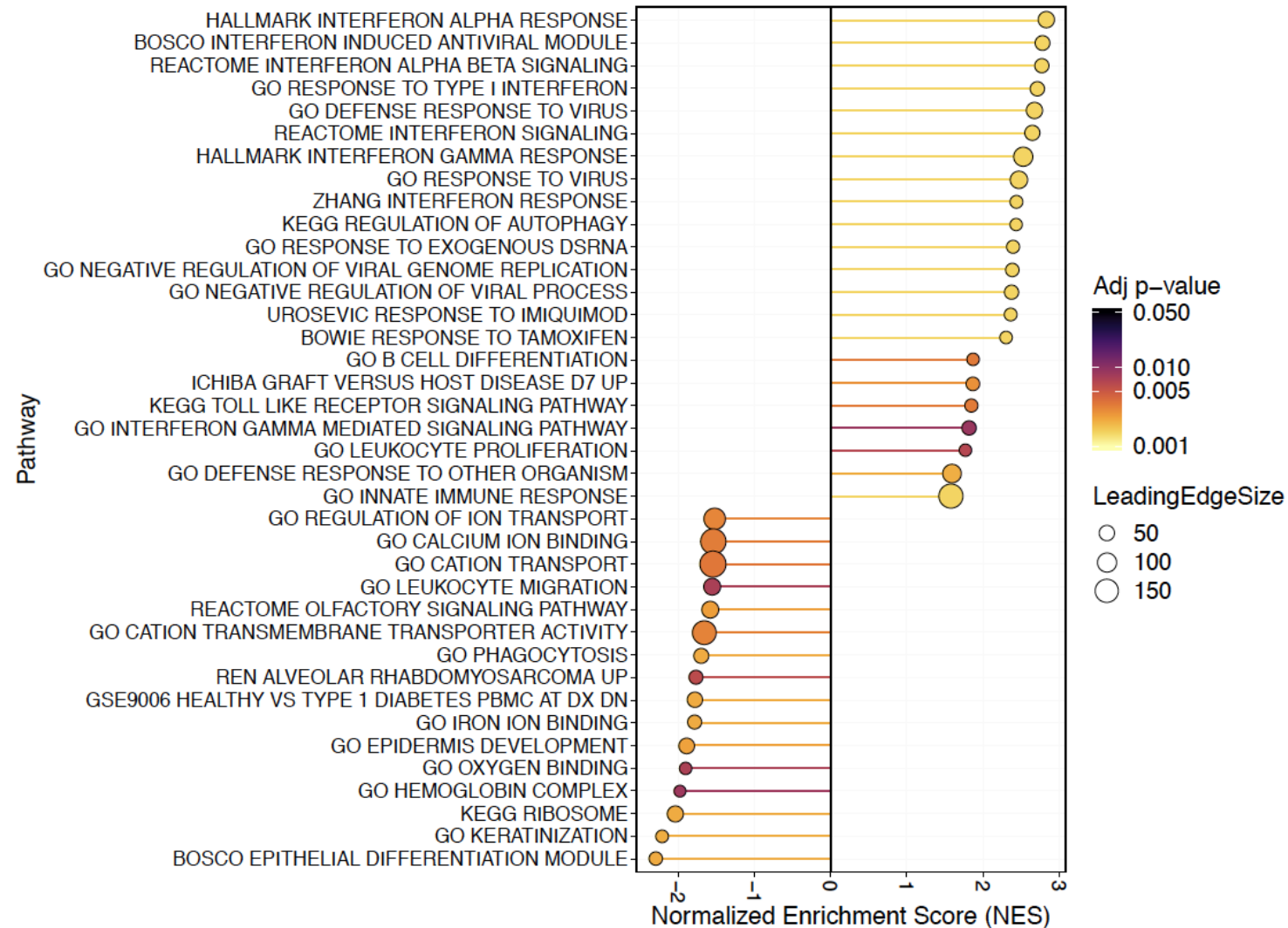


# The human response:

## Host DEGs (q<0.01, >1.5-fold)

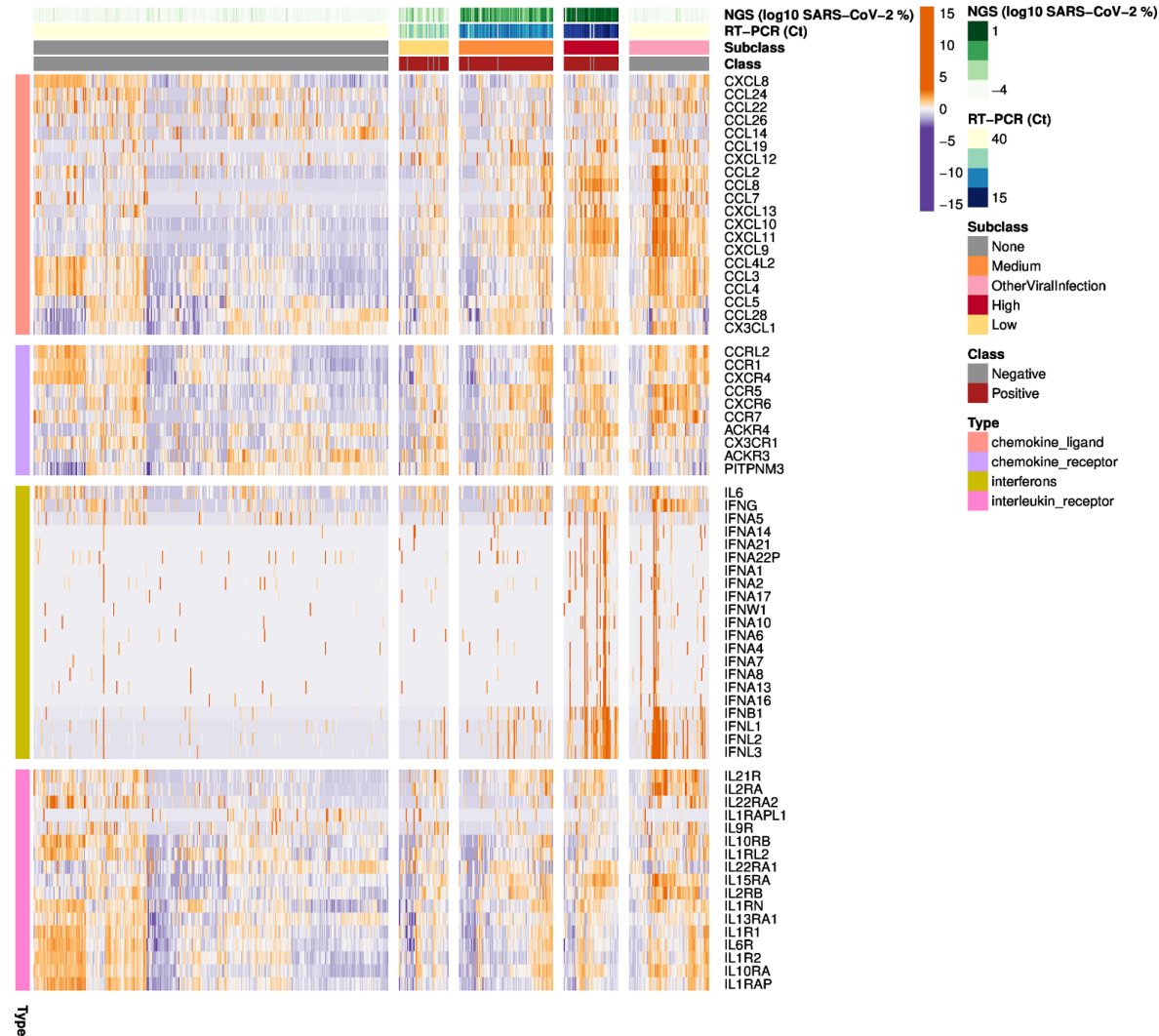


# Biological pathways feature familiar, and some new networks (including heme, olfaction)





# Cytokine and interferon signaling especially pronounced for high titer







Information

Single Gene Plot

Multi Gene Heatmap

Enter/Paste gene symbols (comma, space, new line separated)

IFIT3 ACE2 SHFL IL6

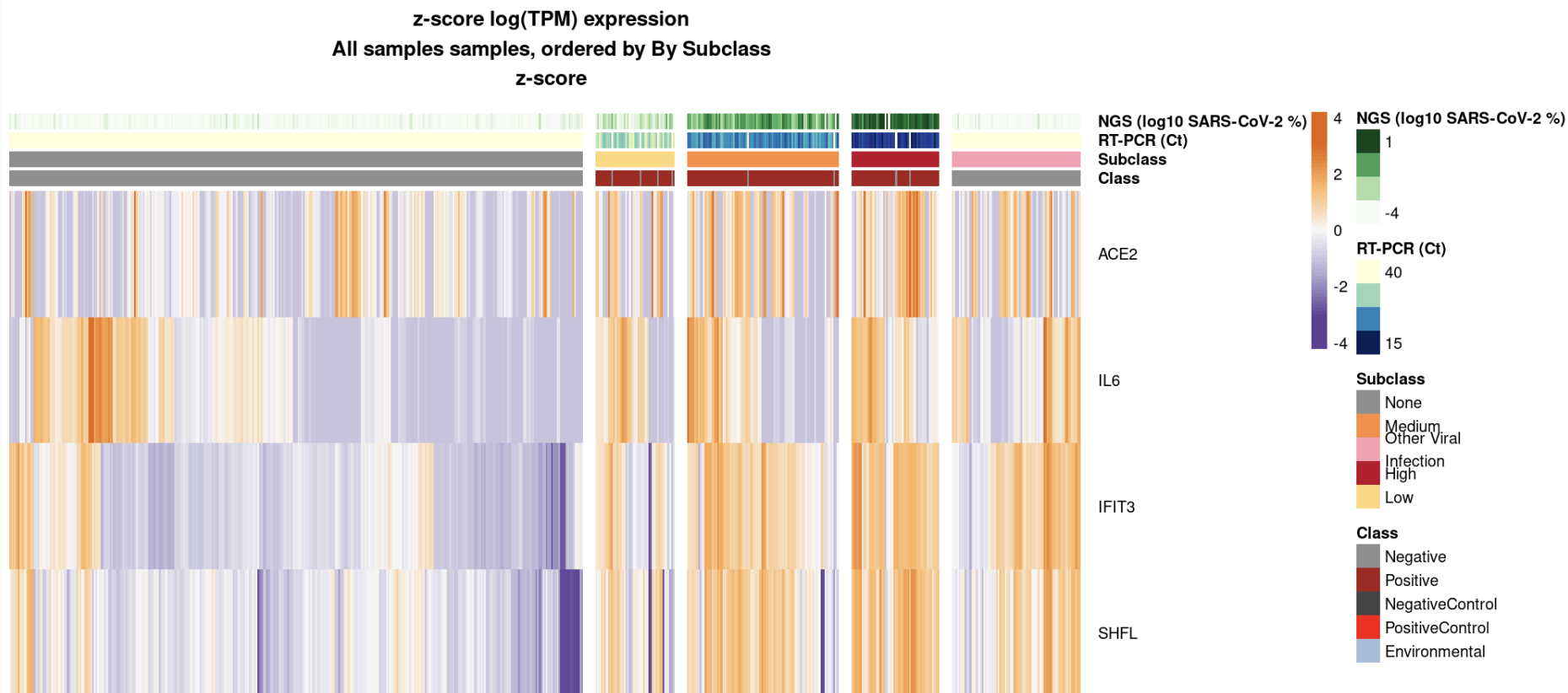
Plot

Pathway Enrichment

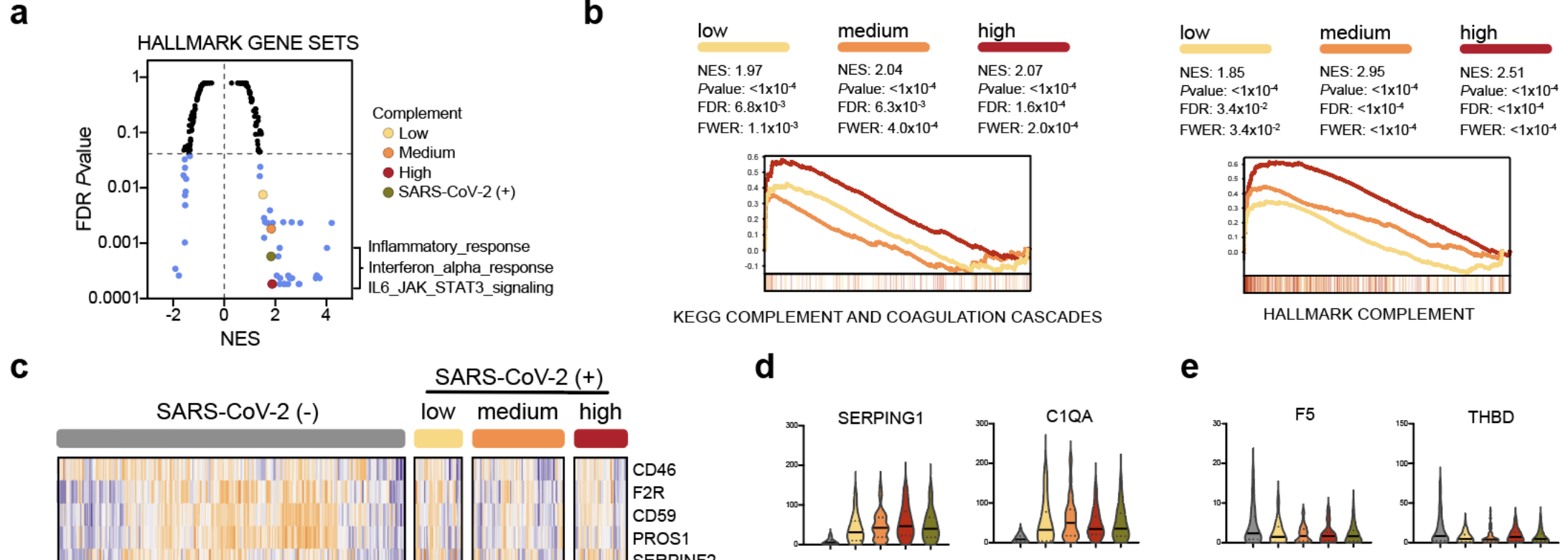
Settings

## Multi gene heatmap

Heatmap



# Complement factor pathways disrupted as a function of viral load



# Now online

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Letter | Published: 03 August 2020

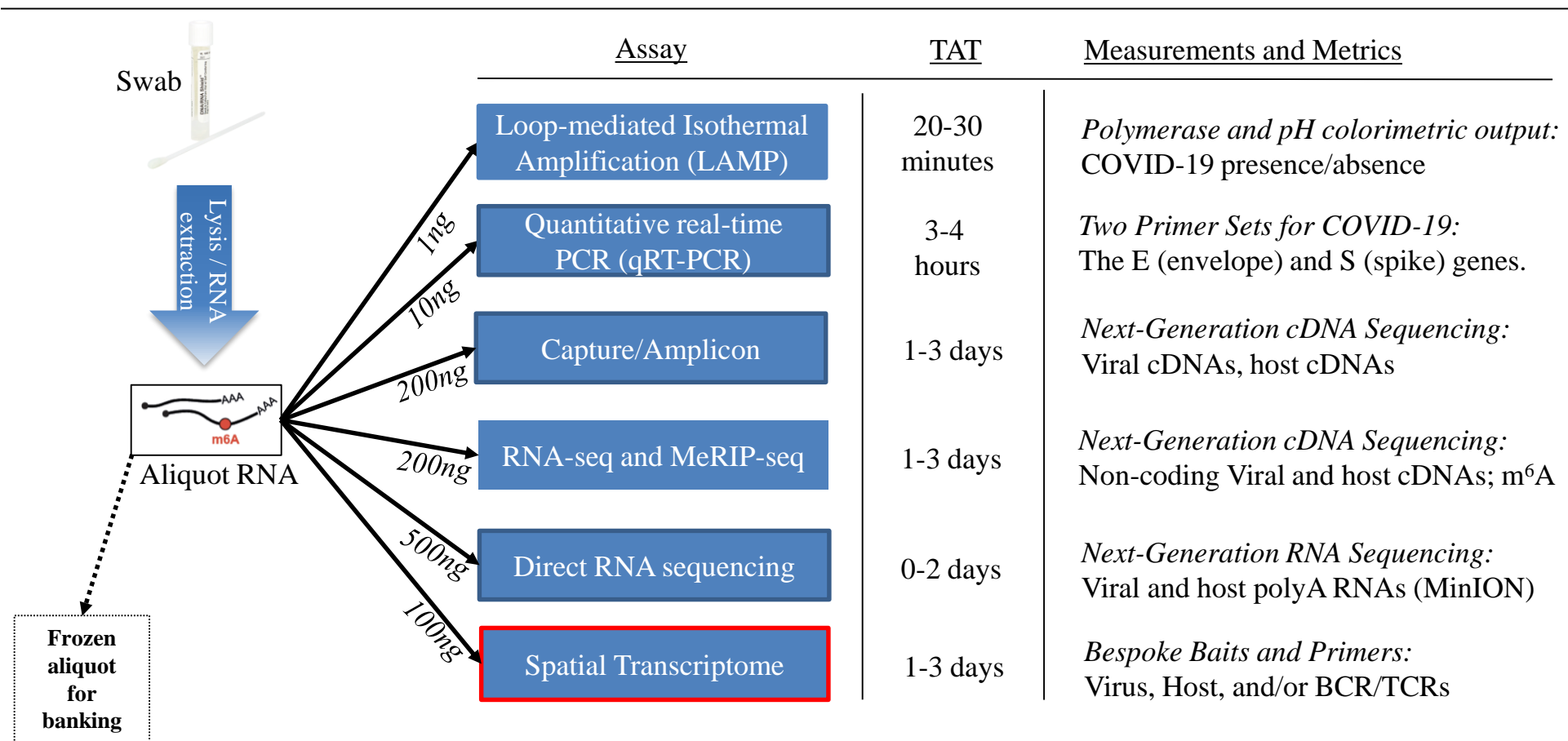
## **Immune complement and coagulation dysfunction in adverse outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infection**

Vijendra Ramlall, Phyllis M. Thangaraj, Cem Meydan, Jonathan Foon, Daniel Butler, Jacob Kim, Ben May, Jessica K. De Freitas, Benjamin S. Glicksberg, Christopher E. Mason, Nicholas P. Tatonetti ✉ & Sagi D. Shapira ✉

*Nature Medicine* (2020) | [Cite this article](#)

**66** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-1021-2>

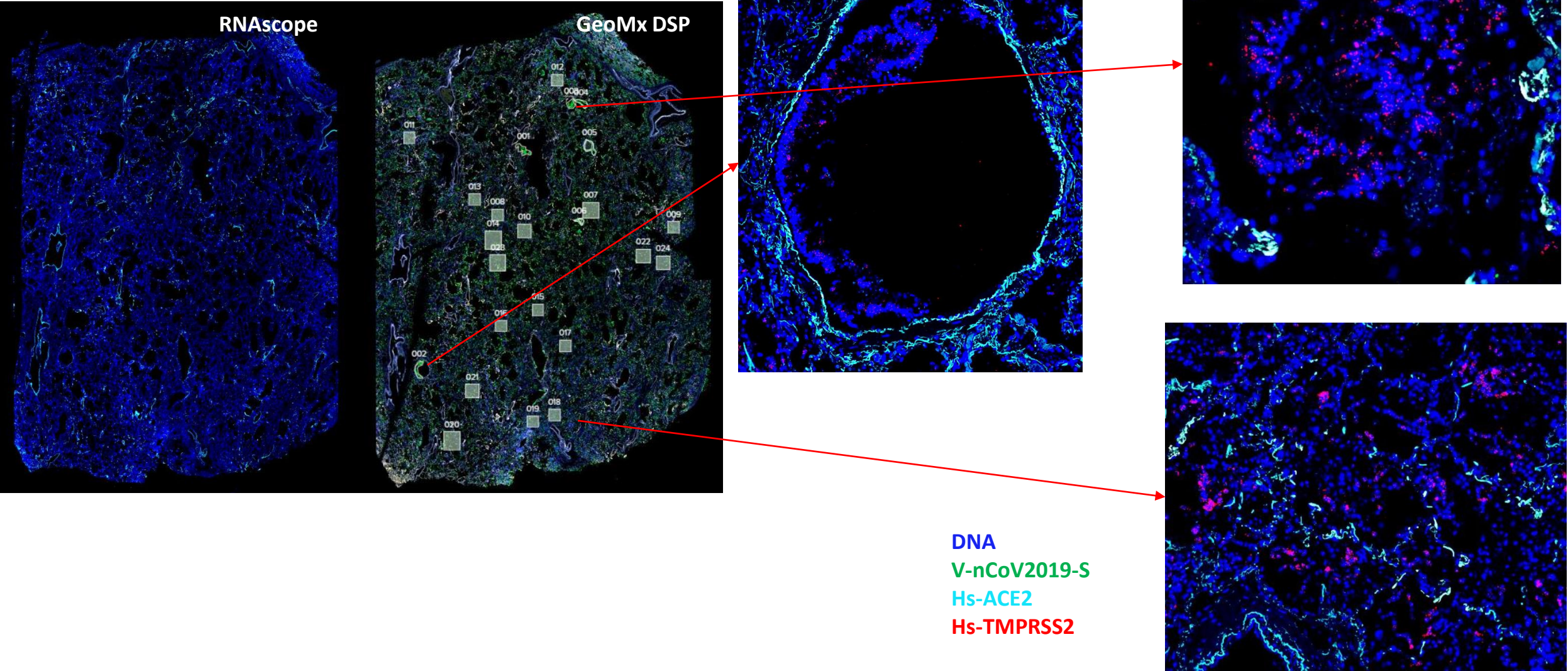


**Spatial Profiling**  
GeoMx® DSP





# Covid21\_ High TMPRSS2 in both large airway and Alveoli

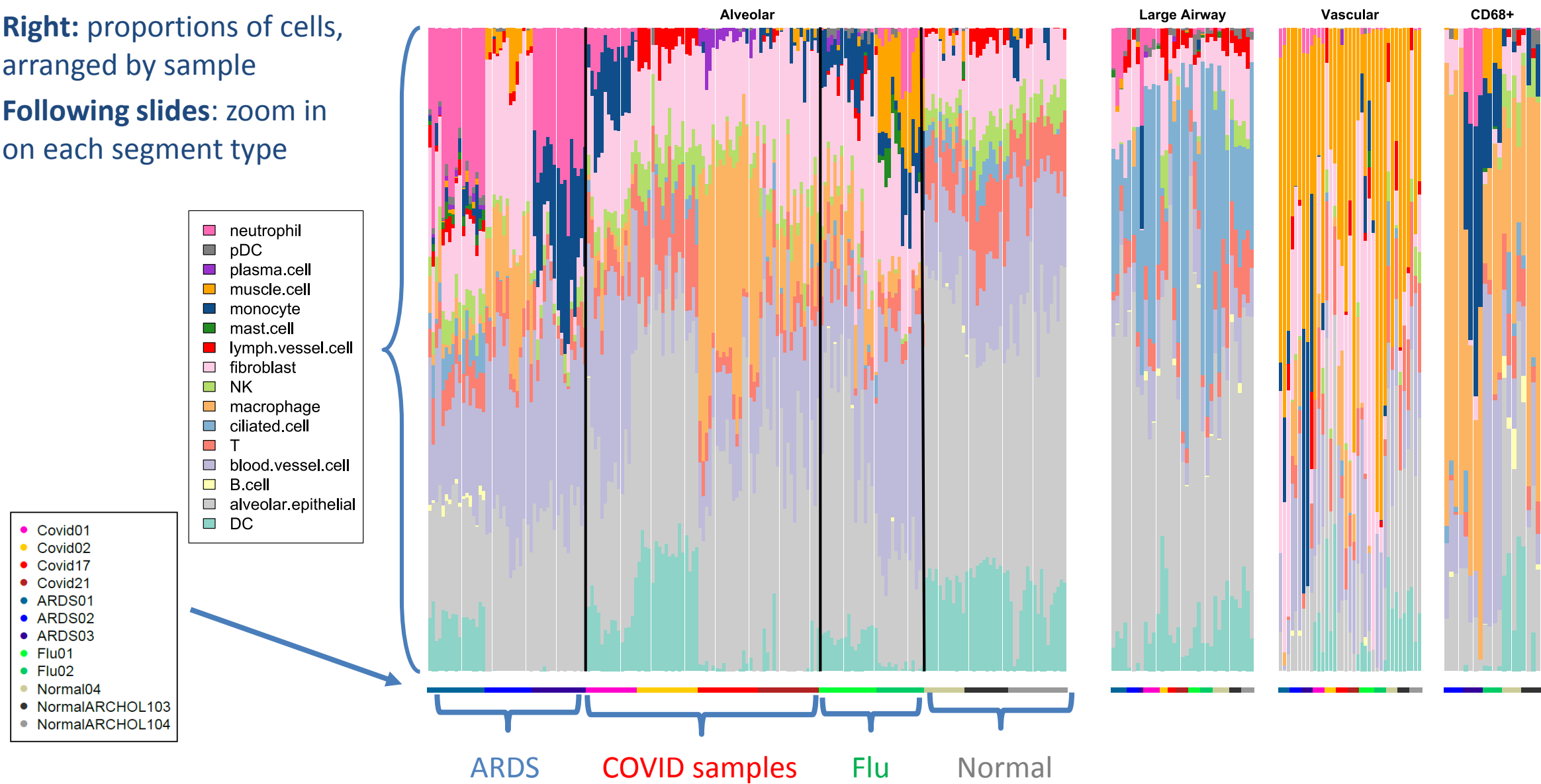


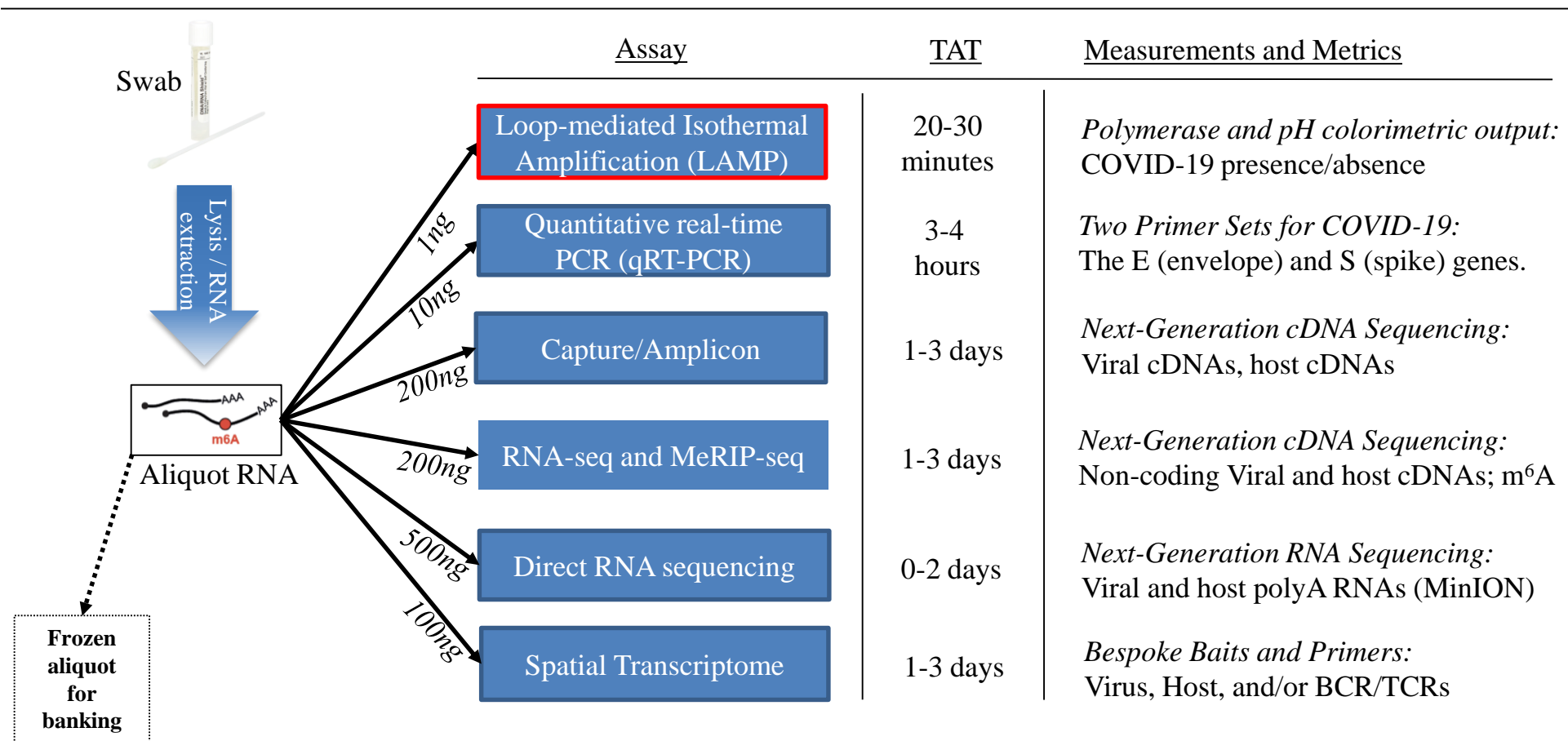


# Cell abundances of all segments

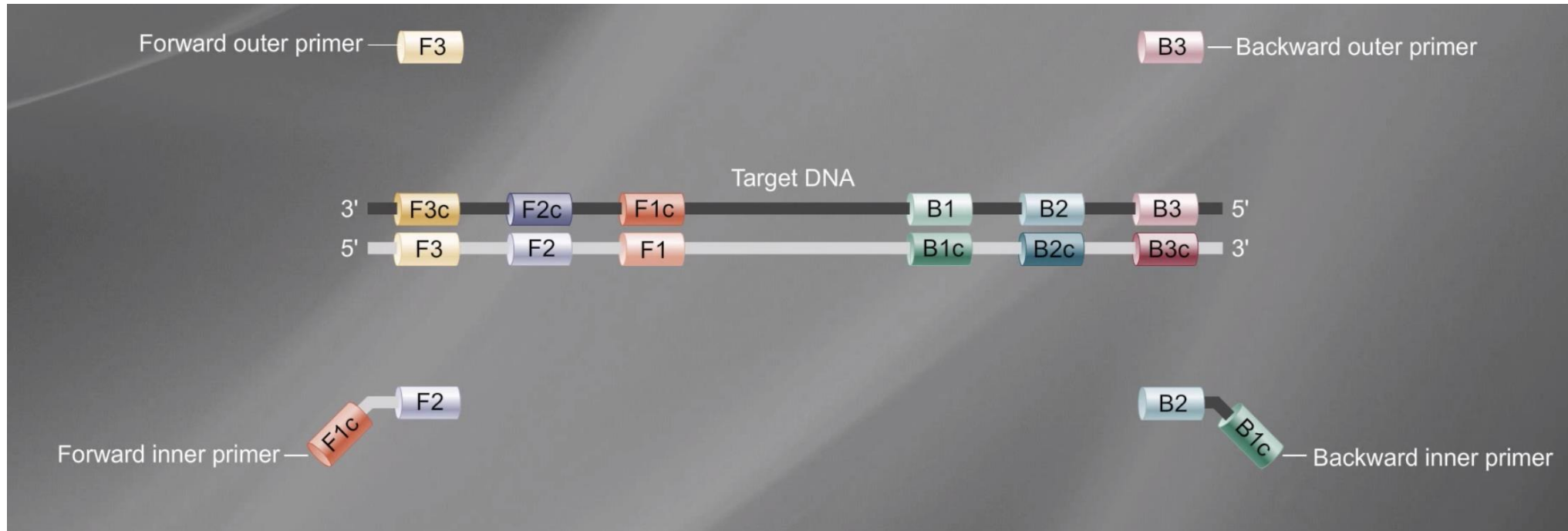
Right: proportions of cells, arranged by sample

Following slides: zoom in on each segment type





# Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP)



A fast (30-40min) and inexpensive (<\$5) RT-PCR assay for targeted amplification of COVID-19 genes:

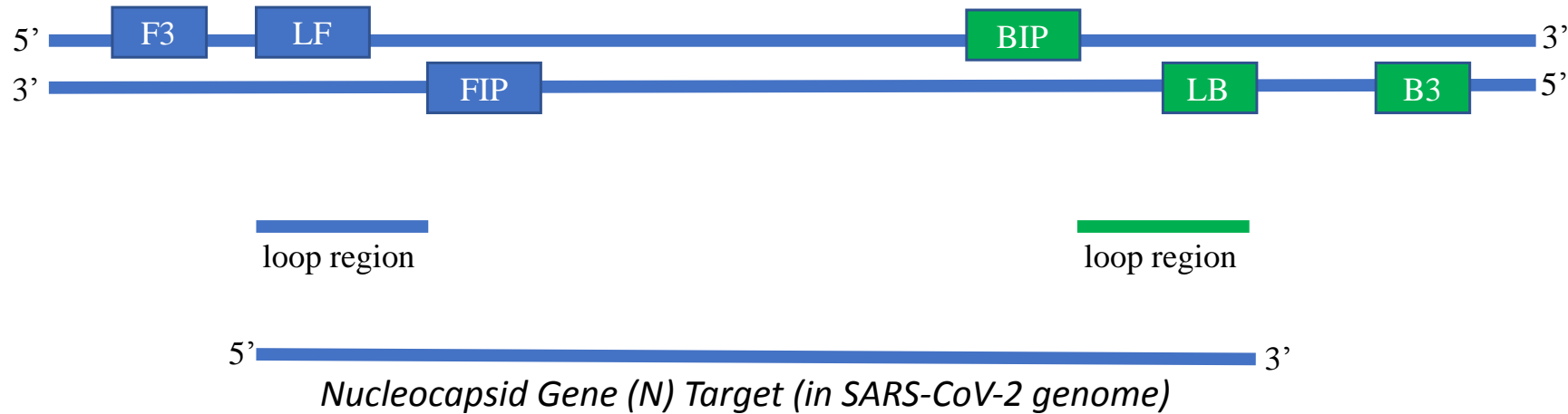
RNA → cDNA → dsDNA  
with Bst strand-displacing polymerase

Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) from New England BioLabs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5zi2P4lggw> | <https://www.neb.com/protocols/2014/06/17/loop-mediated-isothermal-amplification-lamp>

# COVID-19 Primers for Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification

(LAMP)

## *Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) Primer Design*



### **COVID-19 Primers: Gene N (Nucleocapsid gene)**

GeneN-F3 TGGCTACTACCGAAGAGCT

GeneN-B3 TGCAGCATTGTTAGCAGGAT

GeneN-FIP TCTGGCCCAGTTCCTAGGTAGTCCAGACGAATTCGTGGTGG

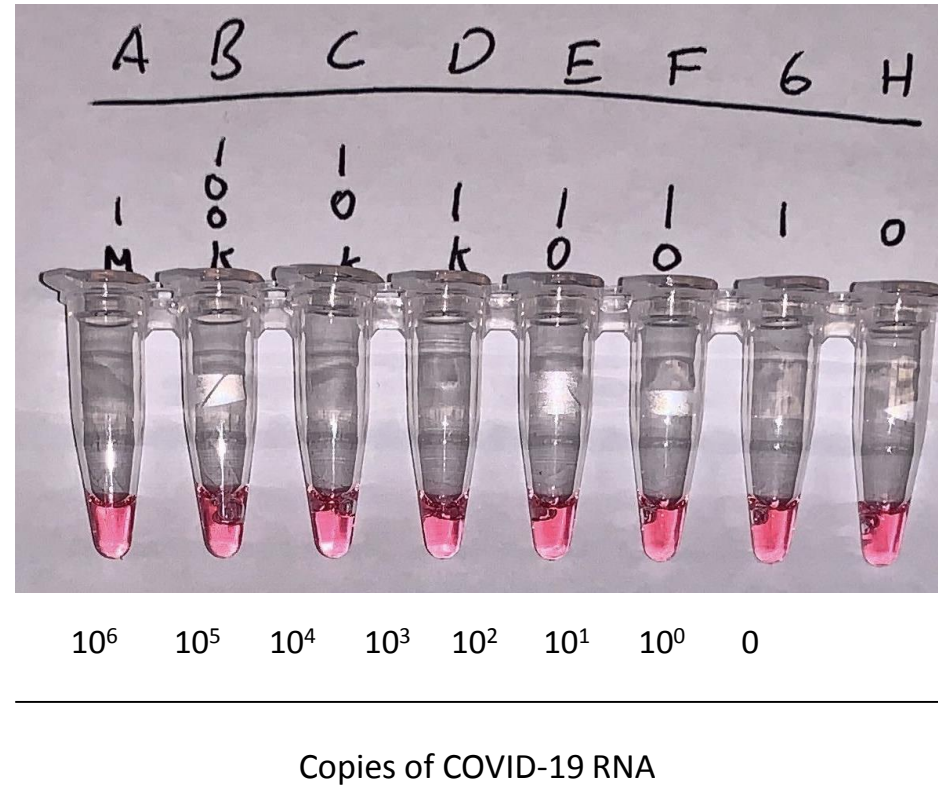
GeneN-BIP AGACGGCATCATATGGGTTGCACGGGTGCCAATGTGATCT

GeneN-LF GGACTGAGATCTTTCATTTTACCGT

GeneN-LB ACTGAGGGAGCCTTGAATACA

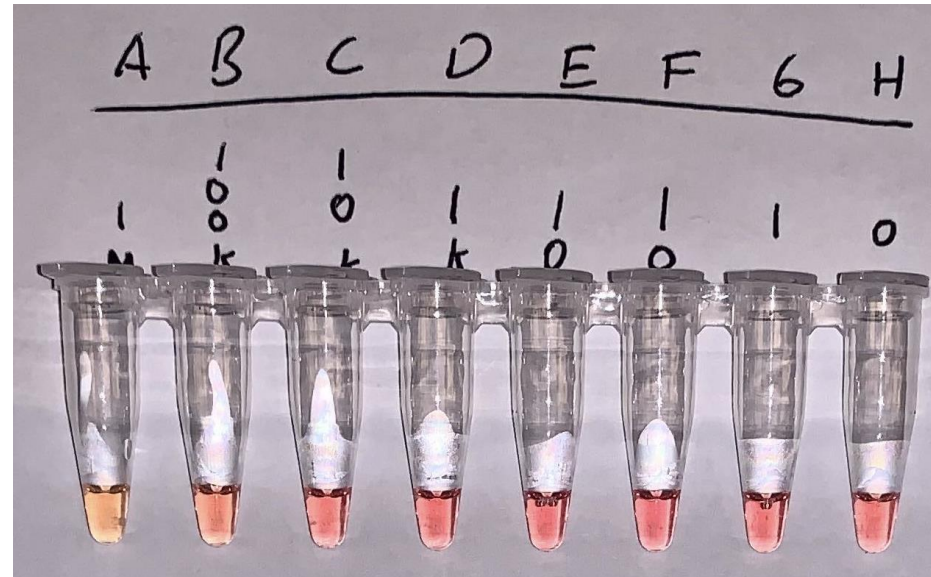
# The LAMP Reaction Starts All Pink

Reaction time:  
0 minutes



Then begins to show a colorimetric shift

Reaction time:  
15 minutes



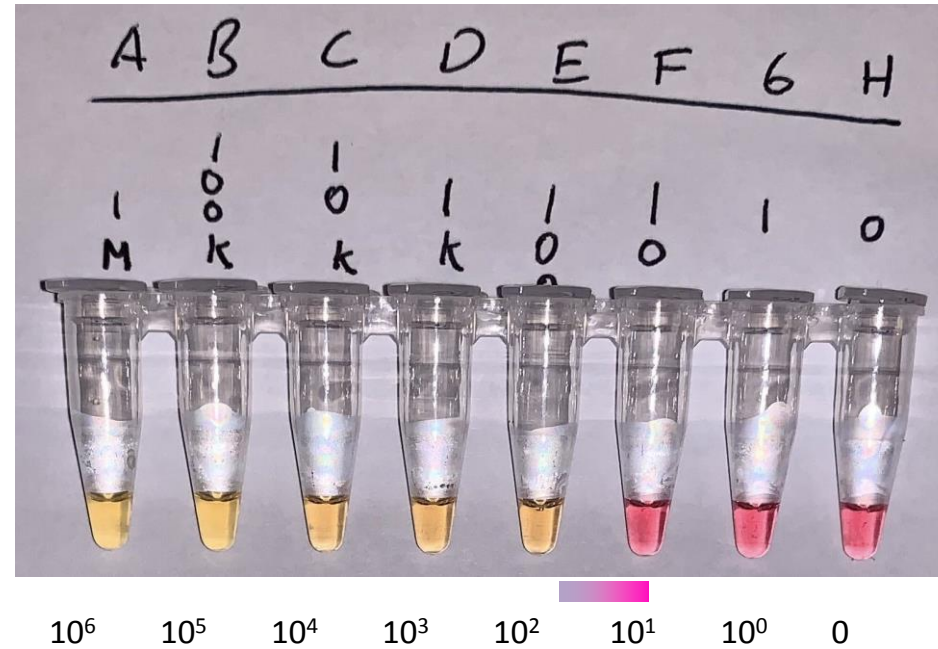
$10^6$   $10^5$   $10^4$   $10^3$   $10^2$   $10^1$   $10^0$  0

Copies of COVID-19 RNA



# LAMP reaction is complete at 30 minutes

Reaction time:  
30 minutes

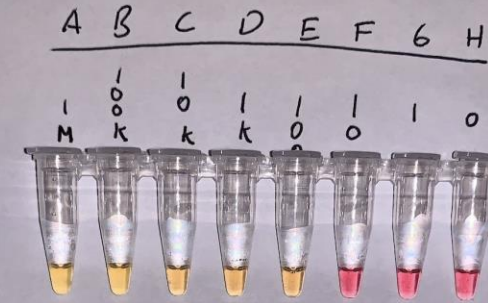


Copies of COVID-19 RNA

# Reproducible across replicates and validated on clinical positives

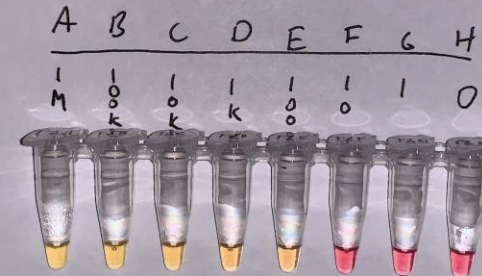
**Twist Synthetic RNA #1**  
(MT007544.1)

1. Twist Synthetic  
RNA Titration #1



**Twist Synthetic RNA #2**  
(MN908947.3)

2. Twist Synthetic  
RNA Titration #2

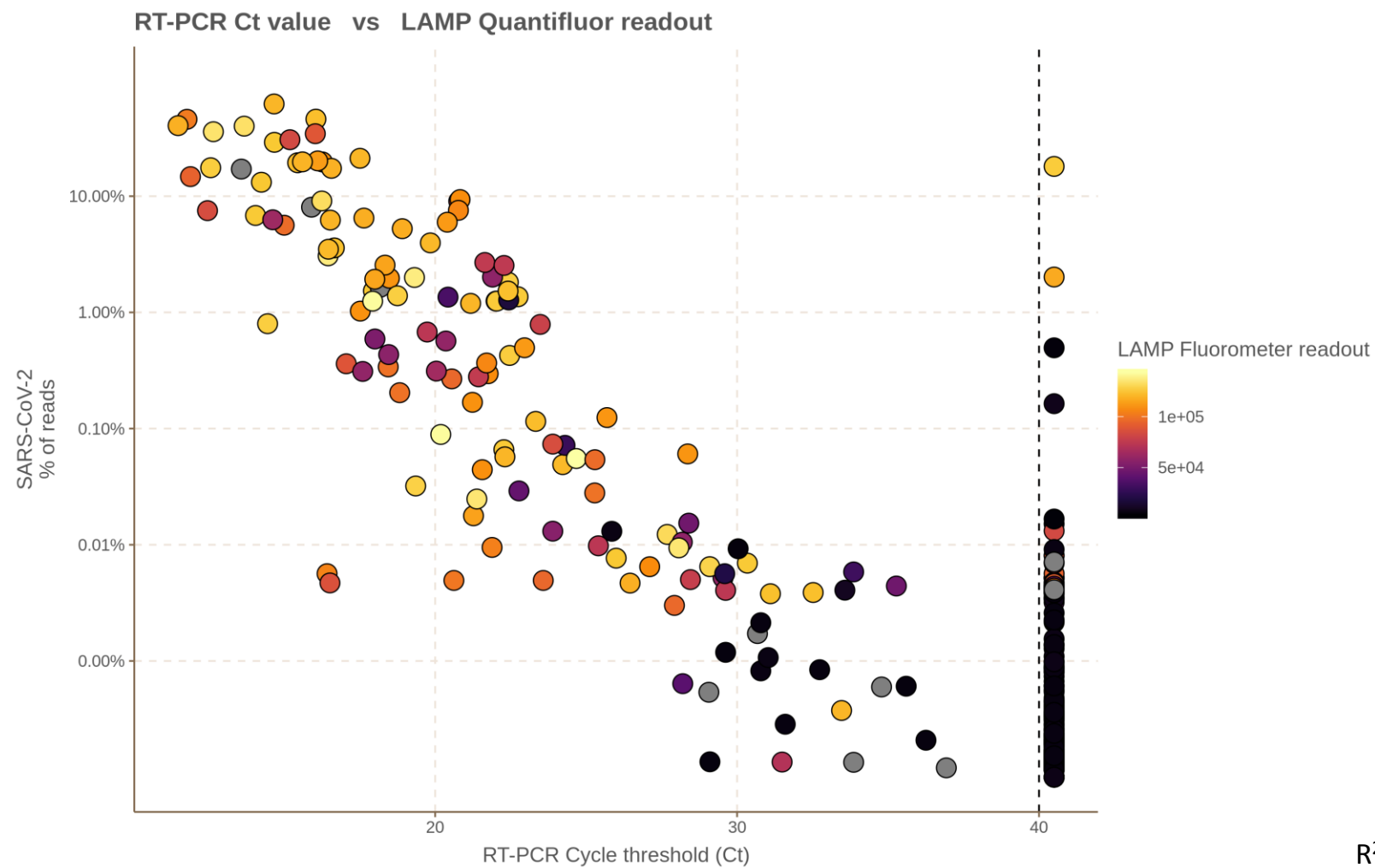


**Clinical COVID-19+ Sample  
with Serial Log Dilution**  
(qRT-PCR+, <0.05ng/mL;  
below Qubit lower limit)

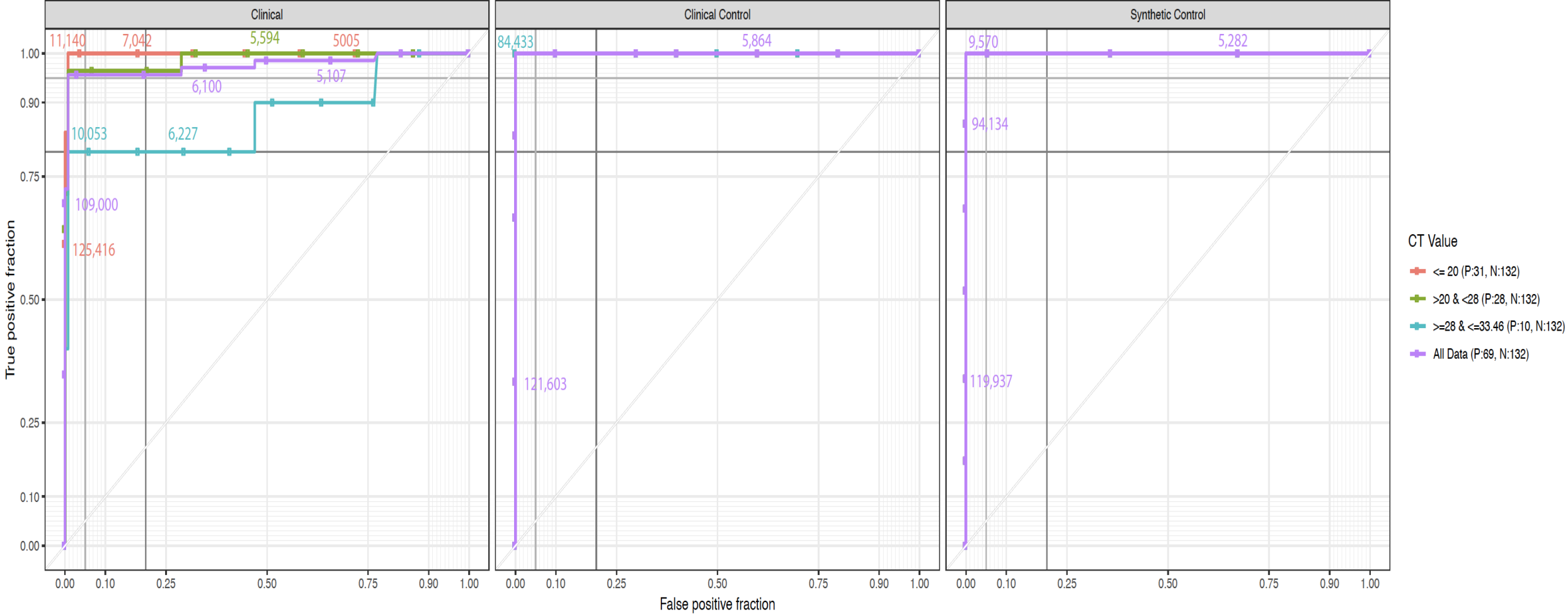
3. Clinical Positive  
Sample # 4



# Overall high correlation with qRT-PCR and RNA-seq

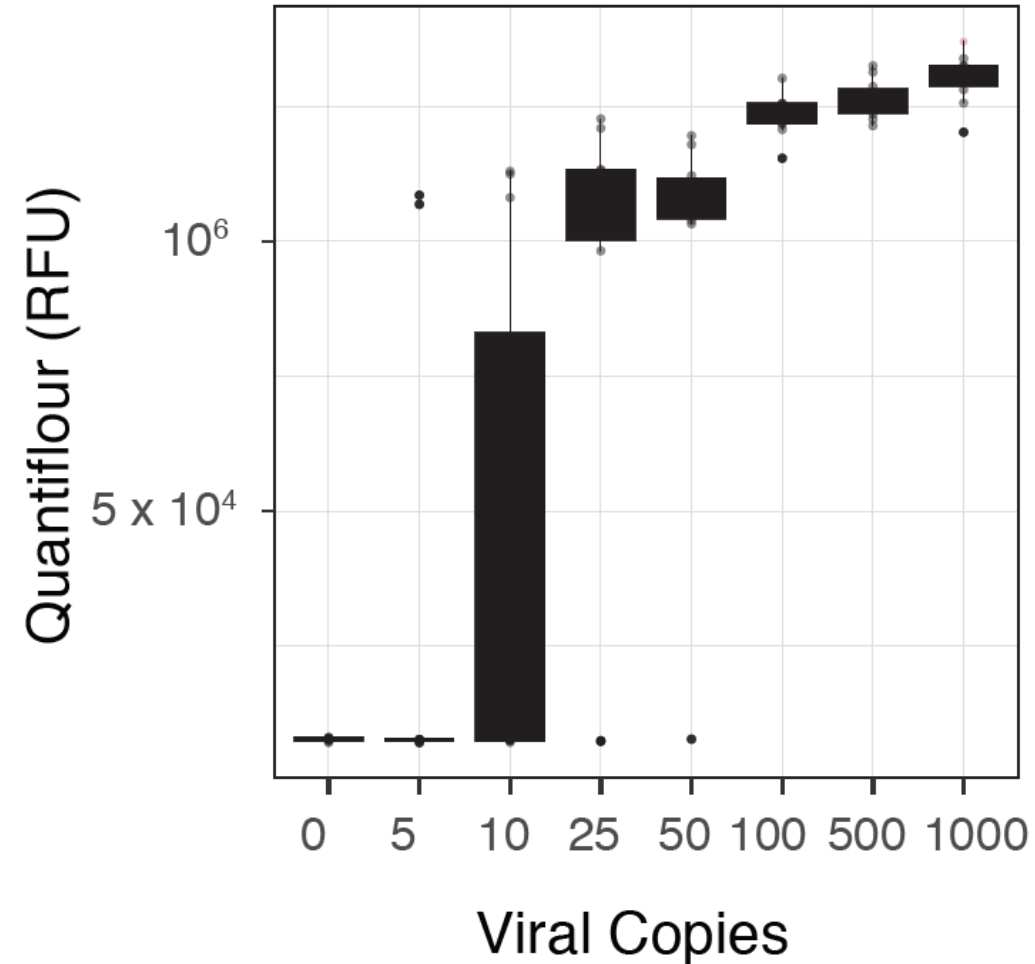


# 96% Sensitivity and 99% Specificity



**New, Dual SARS-CoV-2 Primers for LAMP (E and N genes)  
in one reaction improves sensitivity 2-4 fold (LOD down to 5-25 copies vs. 10-100)**

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# Colorimetric LAMP now FDA-approved in partnership with Color/Broad/Weill Cornell



**FierceBiotech**

## Color gets green light for LAMP-based COVID-19 screening test

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by **Conor Hale** | May 20, 2020 11:00am

To develop its tests for the pandemic, Color has been working with the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard as well as Weill Cornell Medicine. The company is also publishing its LAMP **protocol** (PDF) for use by other laboratories.

<https://www.fda.gov/media/138249/download>



# Also now a full kit:



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drive DISCOVERY  
stay GENUINE

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Support

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[Home](#) > [PCR, qPCR & Amplification Technologies](#) > [Products](#) > SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Colorimetric LAMP Assay Kit

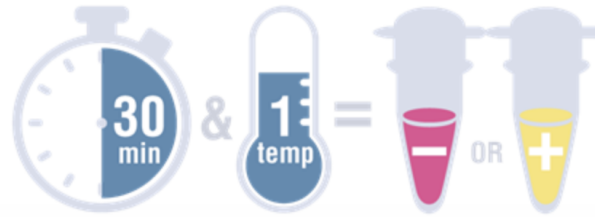


## SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Colorimetric LAMP Assay Kit

**This product is intended for research purposes only.**

The SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Colorimetric LAMP Assay Kit utilizes isothermal amplification for use in the analysis of SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

- Colorimetric LAMP enables simple, visual detection (pink-to-yellow) of amplification of SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid
- Set up reactions quickly and easily, using a simple heat source and unique WarmStart® technology
- Reduce risk of carryover contamination, with UDG and dUTP included in the master mix
- Assay targets N and E regions of the SARS-CoV-2 genome, for optimized sensitivity and specificity
- Bring confidence to your results using the provided controls
- [Learn more](#) about LAMP and other isothermal amplification methods
- [Learn more](#) about how NEB is supporting COVID-19 research



<https://www.neb.com/products/e2019-sars-cov-2-rapid-colorimetric-lamp-assay-kit>

# And a global group!

Groups

New conversation

My groups

Recent groups

Favorite groups

Starred conversations

Global LAMP R&D Consortium

Conversations

32

Approved

32

Pending

People

Members

Pending members

Banned users

1

About

My membership settings

Group settings

Conversations

Search conversations within glamp@googleg...

Global LAMP R&D Consortium

232 members

1-30 of 43

Welcome to gLAMP!

kmoore, ... dhoconno

16

gLAMP Central: "Knowing what we [collectively] know". Call: TUES or WED., between 0900-1300 ET-US —

Oct 8

☆

Mani Ramaswa..., ... dhocon...

4

controlling pH of saliva samples for LAMP — I'm quite keen to see what others learn from these experimer

Oct 8

☆

Christopher Mason

Slides from today — Hi all, Thanks for Dr. Laurence Tisi and Lee Mcglugkin for presenting today and the gre

Oct 8

☆

rand...@gmail.com

gLAMP Central - Survey1 — I've invited you to fill out a form: gLAMP Central - Survey1 Fill out form Create !

Oct 8

☆

Christopher ... , Christopher ...

3

gLAMP call today, 12-1PM EST — Hi all, Please join us today for the global LAMP (gLAMP) R&D discussion

Oct 8

☆

jongerth

Re: WarmStart action — Nathan, I know the LOD issue is a major one particularly in diagnostic applications

Oct 7

☆

jongerth, ... scott.tighe

11

Re: WW-LAMP — Scott, I have dashed the attached description of our Friday runs yesterday. I'll try to comp

Oct 5

☆

Christopher Mas..., scott.tig...

2

COVID-19 testing article — Chris I signed you up for a 15 min talk at the NERDS meeting oct14. Our sessio

Oct 2

☆

Christopher..., ... acer...@gm...

4

Pooling testing — I guess the US looks like a little dot when Observed from down under.... but there are act

Oct 1

☆

Randy True

gLAMP Central kickoff zoom video — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GW2SUEGR3A&feature=voutu.l

Oct 1

☆

<https://groups.google.com/g/glamp/>

# Can we enable rapid testing in Cities with “Pop-Up Labs?”

**Make it easy for ANYONE to get tested with NYC as a model for others (SF, Seattle, Chicago).**

*About \$15K/site set up and \$1K/day reagents*

### 1) Equipment:

Staff/testers minimally trained in molecular biology;  
Small freezer or 4C for reagents \$500-1000;  
2 Basic laptops with barcode reader \$2000;  
Heat blocks (96-well) - \$400;  
Pipetteman (two per heatblock) ~\$600 per two sets;  
Folding table - \$75.

## 2) Consumables:

Pipet tips - \$300 per heat block;  
Gloves - \$24/box;  
Waste bins - \$100 ea;  
Tubes - \$347/250;  
DNA/RNA-free Water- \$50.

### 3) PPE:

Personal Protection Equipment (masks, eye protection) - \$500.

#### 4) Decontamination supplies:

Bleach and wipes - \$200.



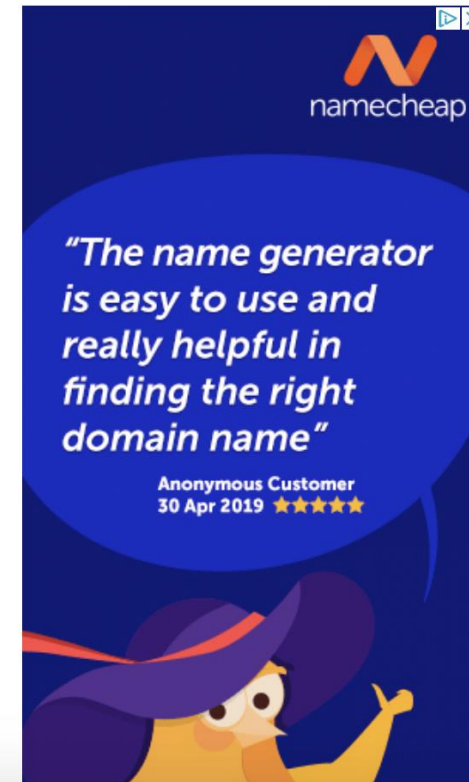
*On-site swabbing at the Annual Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities Meeting (2018)*

# Racine partnering on new, quicker COVID-19 test

Christina Lieftring 2 hrs ago 7

SALE! Subscribe for \$1/mo.

1 of 3

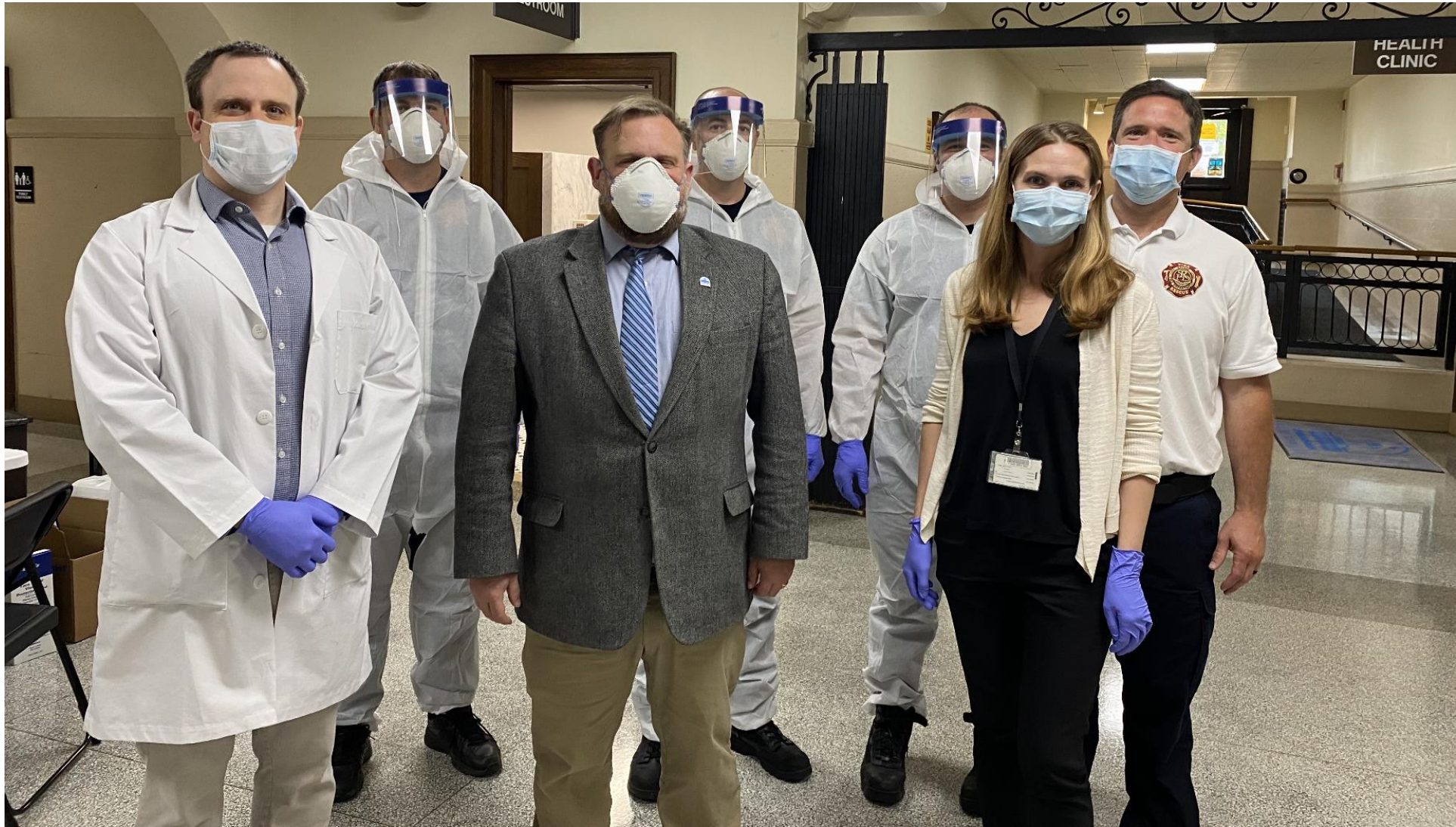


[https://journaltimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/racine-partnering-on-new-quicker-covid-19-test/article\\_df721f98-9006-55f0-b8f1-a3e573d15cd5.html](https://journaltimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/racine-partnering-on-new-quicker-covid-19-test/article_df721f98-9006-55f0-b8f1-a3e573d15cd5.html)



# Racine City Hall On-site Testing

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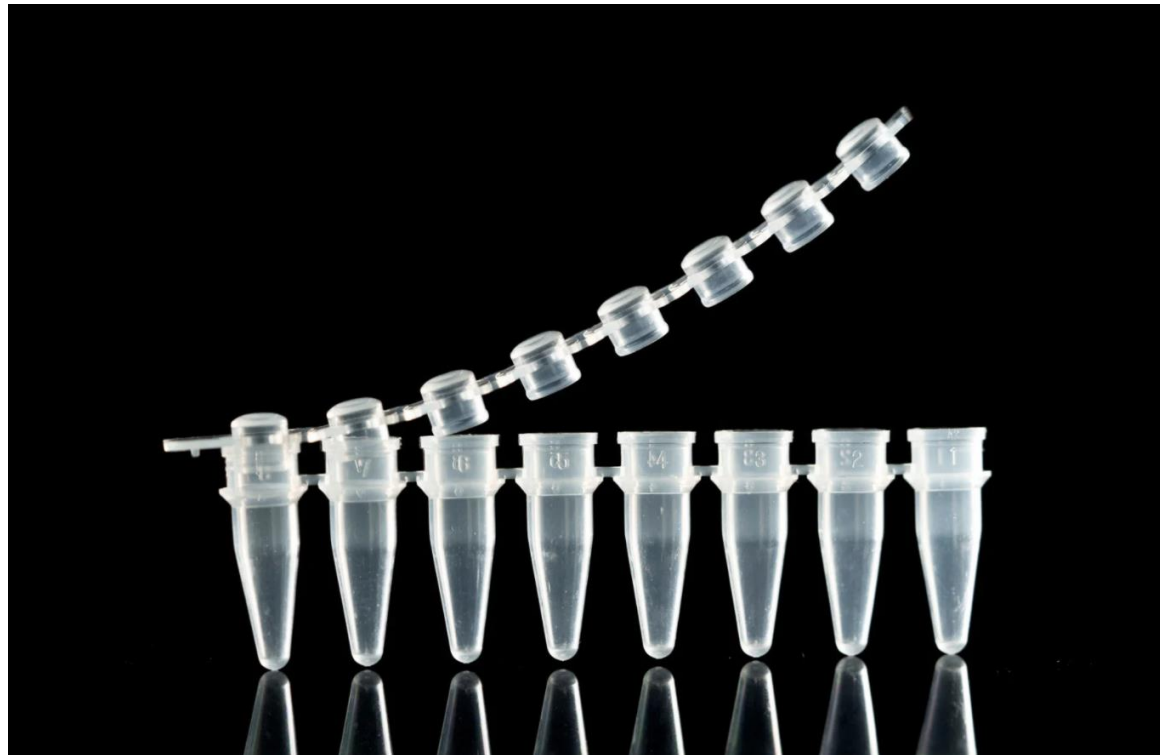


GREGORY BARBER

SCIENCE 07.23.2020 07:00 AM

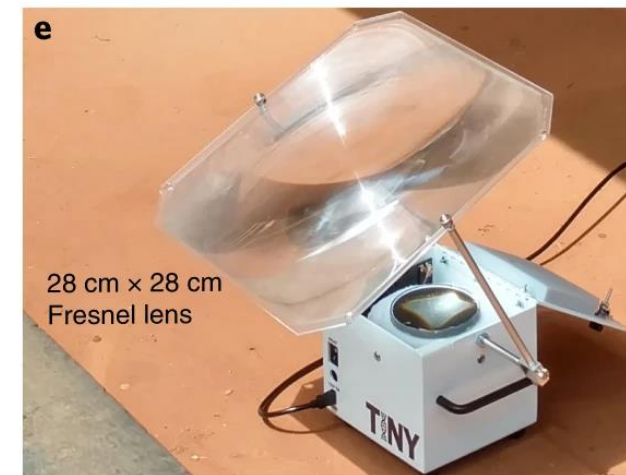
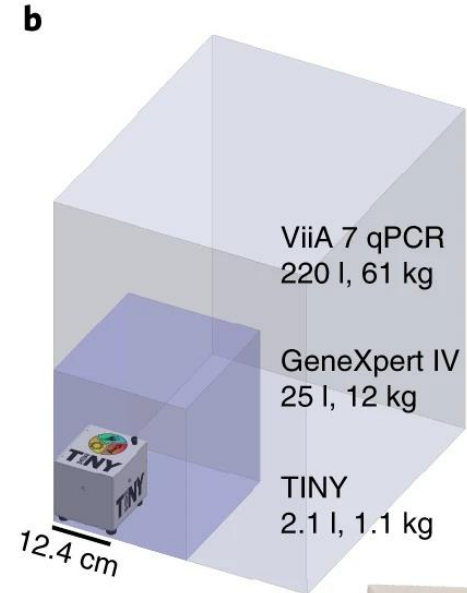
# A Wisconsin City Experiments With a Faster, DIY Covid-19 Test

In a former boxing gym in Racine, firefighters are trying out a spit test that's simpler and cheaper than PCR. Could it change how we screen for the virus?



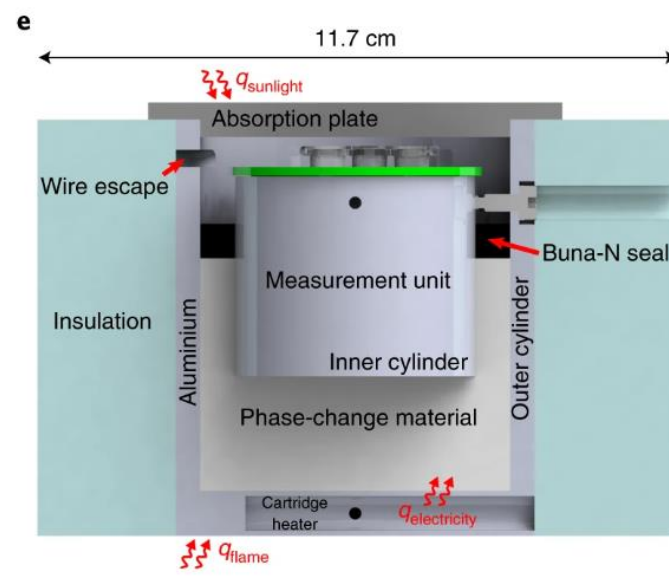
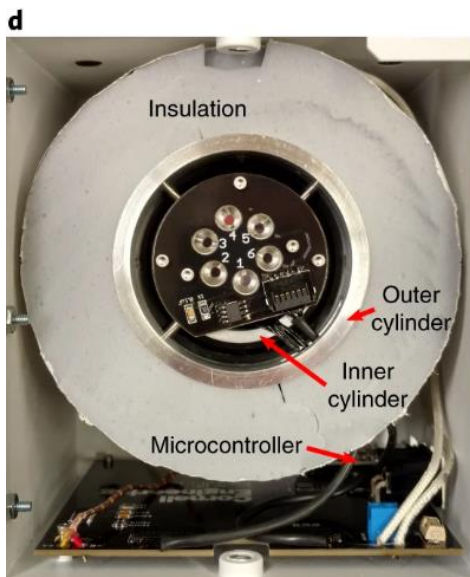
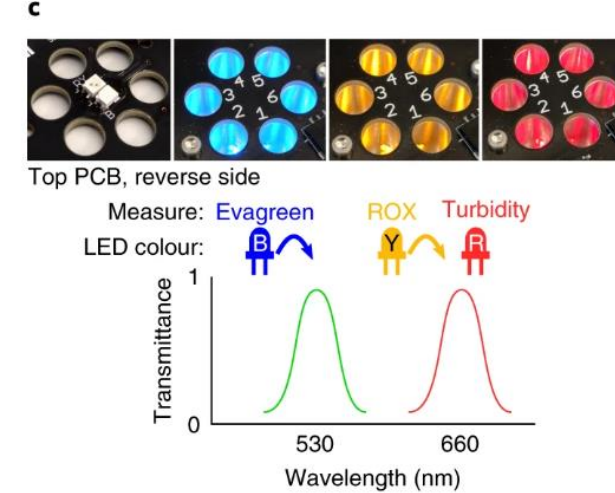
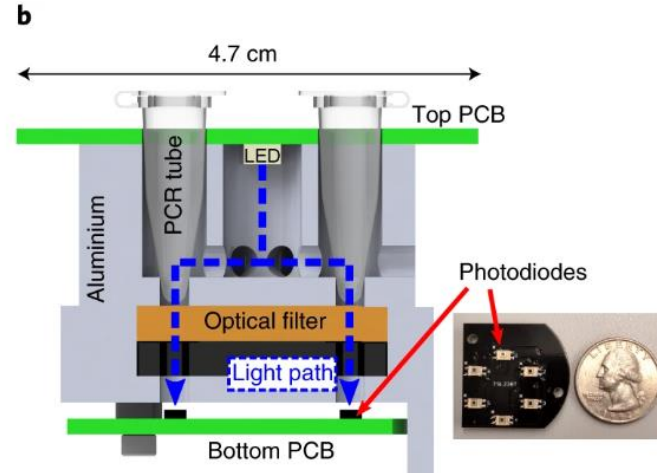
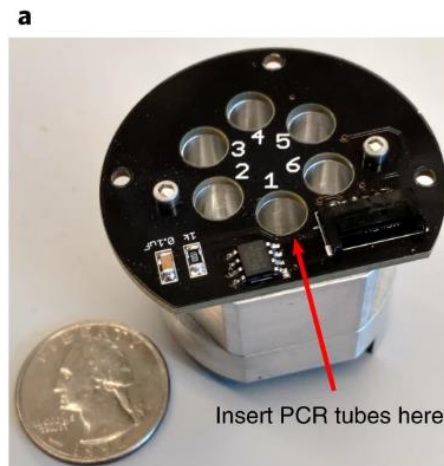
<https://www.wired.com/story/a-wisconsin-city-experiments-with-a-faster-diy-covid-19-test/>

Can it be easier?



## A portable device for nucleic acid quantification powered by sunlight, a flame or electricity

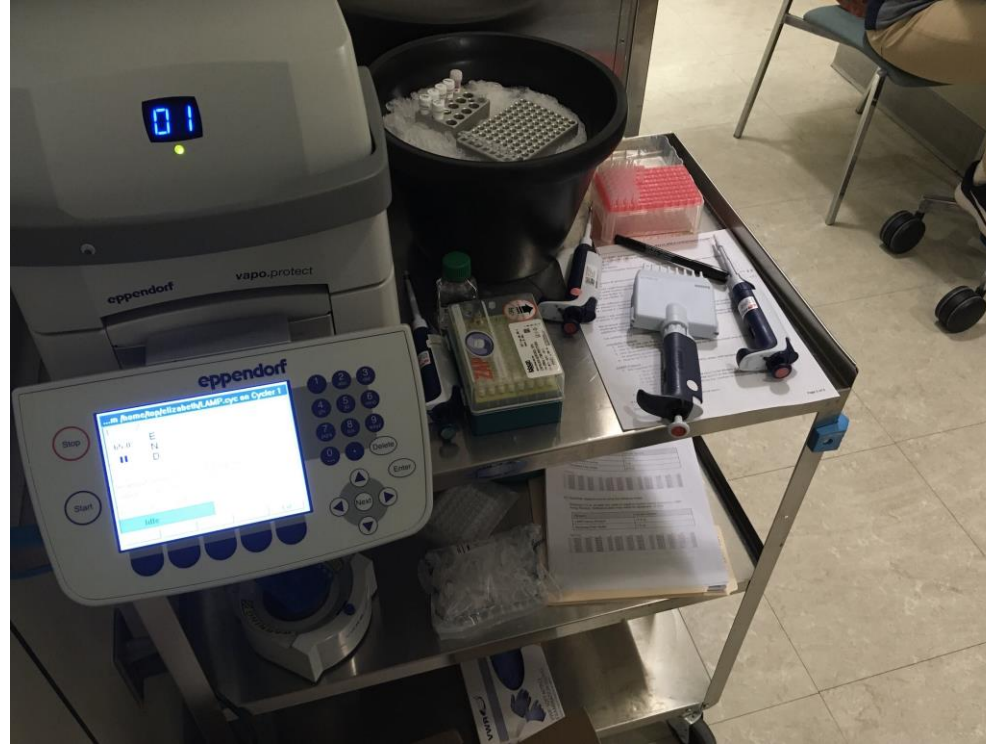
Ryan Snodgrass, Andrea Gardner, Aggrey Semeere, Varun Lingaiah Kopparthy, Jens Duru, Toby Maurer, Jeffrey Martin, Ethel Cesarman & David Erickson



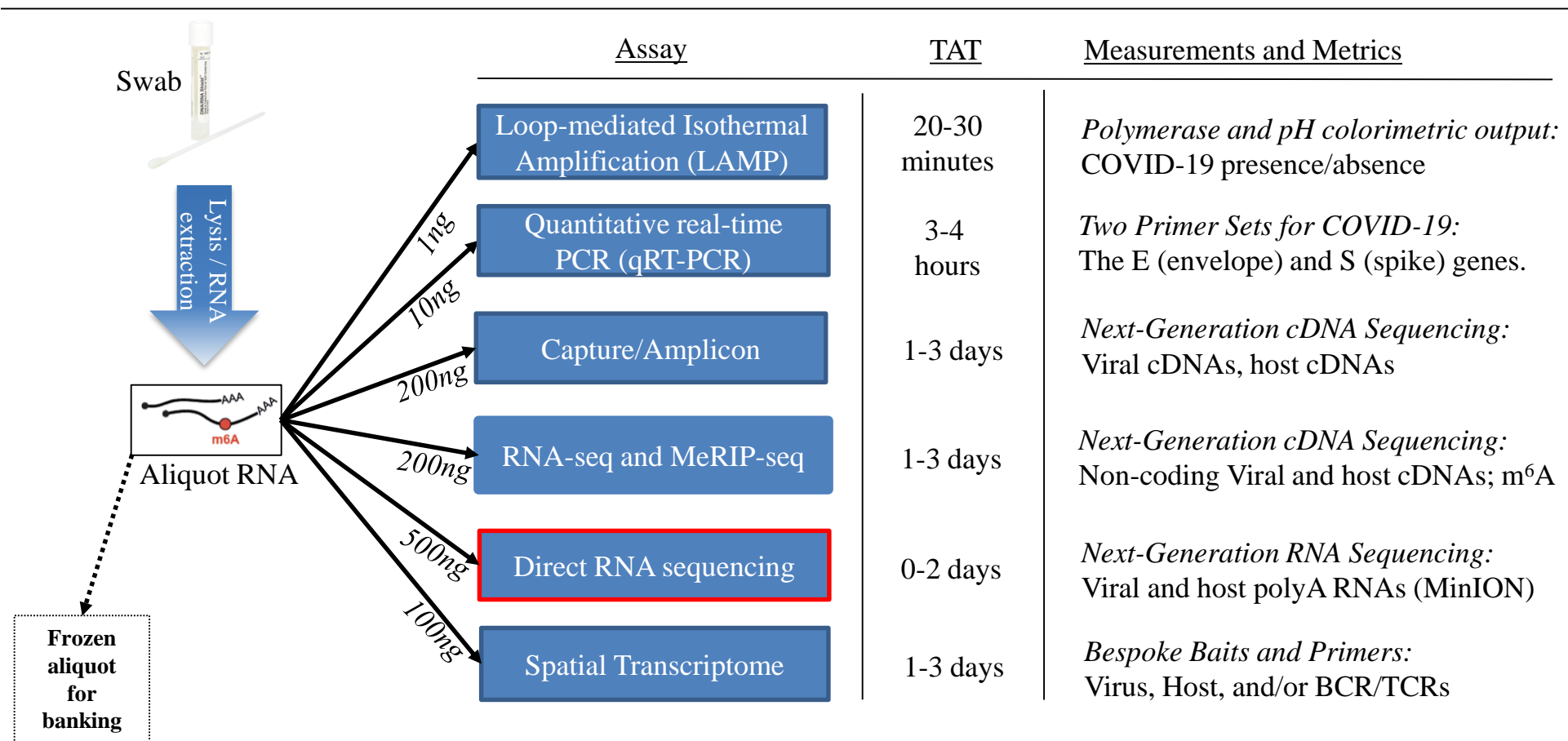


# TINY Device and Methods now being used in the Racine and the ER at NYP

These methods and new SARS-CoV-2 protocols are currently deployed in the emergency room (ER) at New York Presbyterian (NYP) Hospital for nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs and direct from saliva.

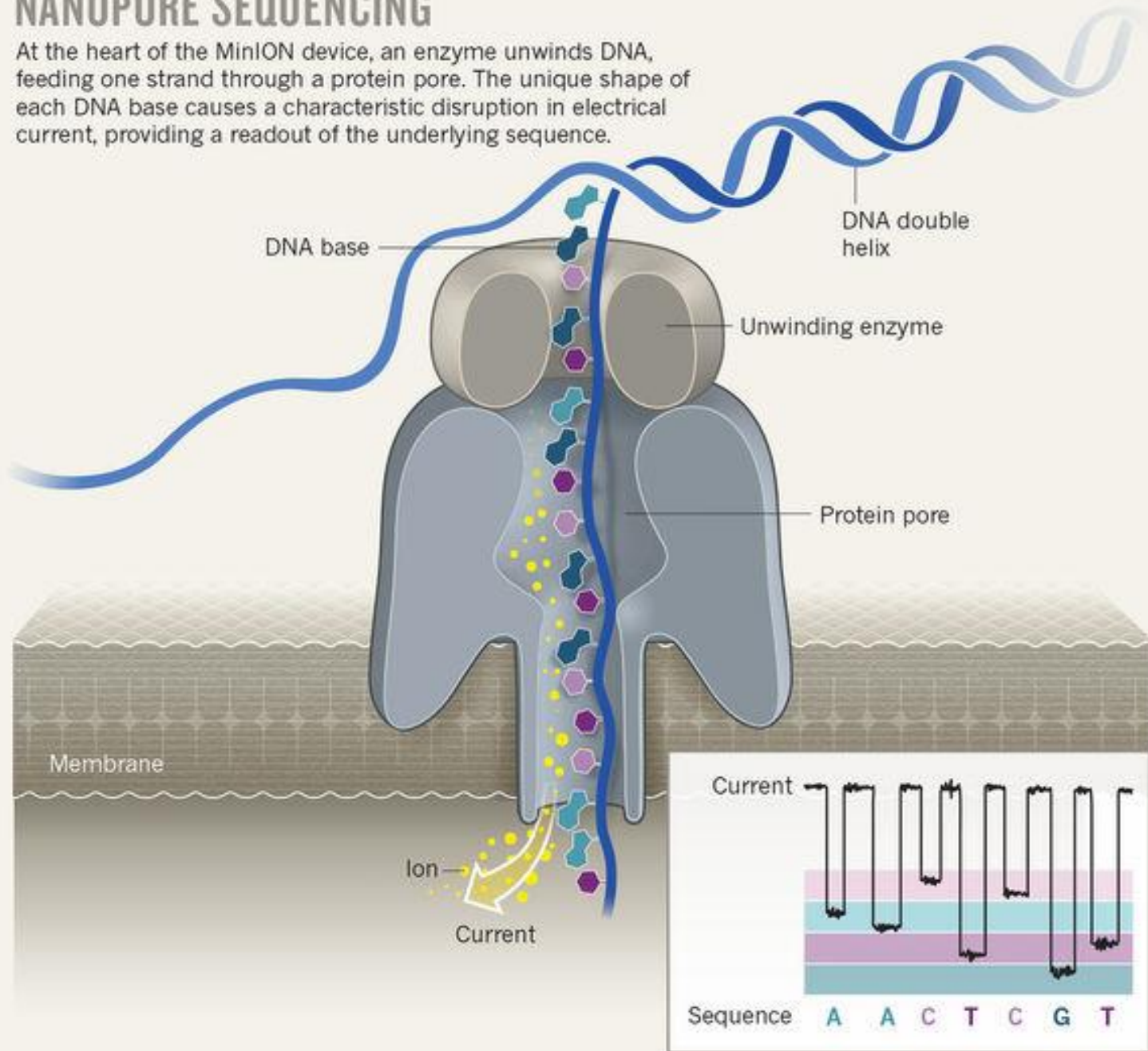


We now have an IRB protocol to help with screening and testing patients, health care workers, and staff.



# NANOPORE SEQUENCING

At the heart of the MinION device, an enzyme unwinds DNA, feeding one strand through a protein pore. The unique shape of each DNA base causes a characteristic disruption in electrical current, providing a readout of the underlying sequence.

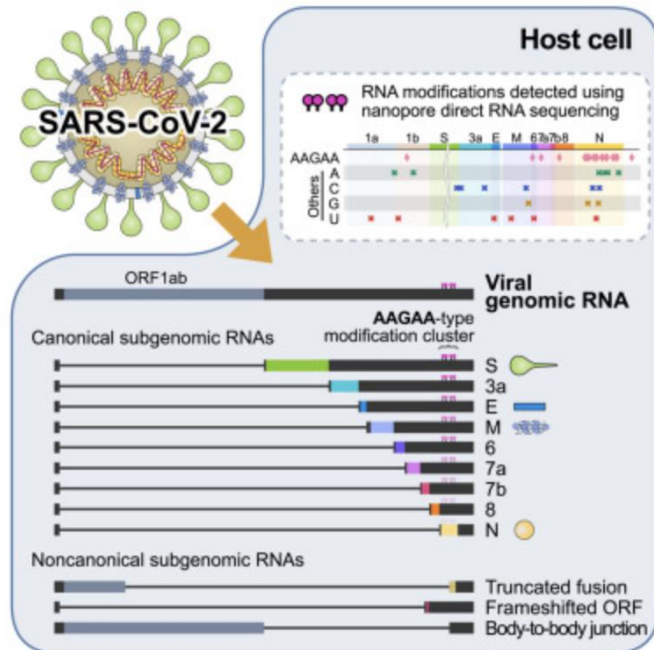




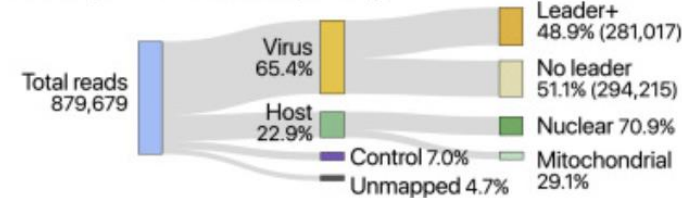
Resource

# The Architecture of SARS-CoV-2 Transcriptome

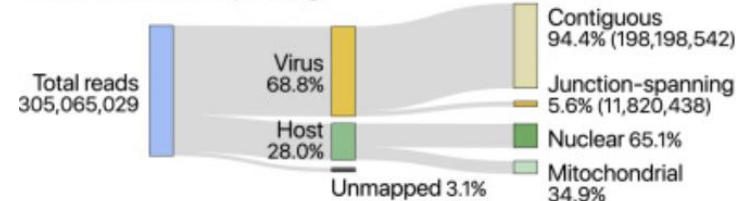
Dongwan Kim <sup>1, 2</sup>, Joo-Yeon Lee <sup>3</sup>, Jeong-Sun Yang <sup>3</sup>, Jun Won Kim <sup>3</sup>, V. Narry Kim <sup>1, 2, 4</sup> ✉, Hyesik Chang <sup>1, 2</sup> ✉



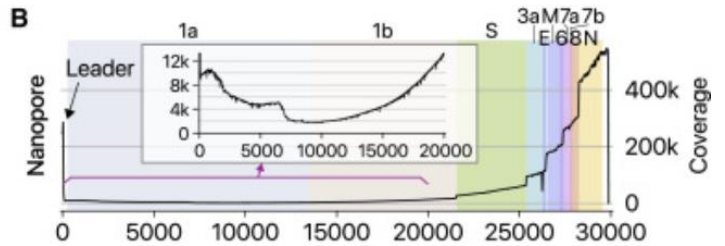
## A Nanopore Direct RNA Sequencing



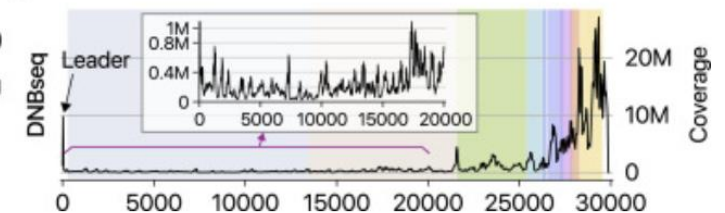
## C DNA Nanoball Sequencing



## B



## D



New places

# Can we just sequence in space?

**OpNom:** Biomolecule Sequencer

**Principal Investigator(s)**

Aaron Burton, Ph.D., NASA JSC, Houston, TX, United States

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**Developer(s)**

NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX, United States

**Sponsoring Space Agency**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**Sponsoring Organization**

Technology Demonstration Office (TDO)

## International Space Station



### Biomolecule Sequencer (Biomolecule Sequencer) - 05.05.16

[Overview](#) | [Description](#) | [Applications](#) | [Operations](#) | [Results](#) | [Publications](#) | [Imagery](#)

#### ISS Science for Everyone

##### Science Objectives for Everyone

Living organisms contain DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, and sequencing DNA is a powerful way to understand how they respond to changing environments. The Biomolecule Sequencer investigation seeks to demonstrate, for the first time, that DNA sequencing is feasible in an orbiting spacecraft. A space-based DNA sequencer could identify microbes, diagnose diseases and understand crew member health, and potentially help detect DNA-based life elsewhere in the solar system.

##### Science Results for Everyone

Information Pending

- Operational environmental monitoring of microorganisms
  - Allow for in-flight identification of microbes, which is currently not possible but is essential for travel beyond our moon.
  - Inform real-time decisions and remediation strategies.
- Medical operations
  - Real-time analysis can impact medical intervention and define countermeasure efficacy.
- Research
  - DNA from any organism can be sequenced to assist any scientific investigation on the ISS.
- Astrobiology
  - ISS demonstration serves as functional testing for integration into robotics for Mars exploration missions.
  - This technology is superiorly suited for the detection of life based on DNA and DNA-like molecules.

[http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/station/research/experiments/2181.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/research/experiments/2181.html)



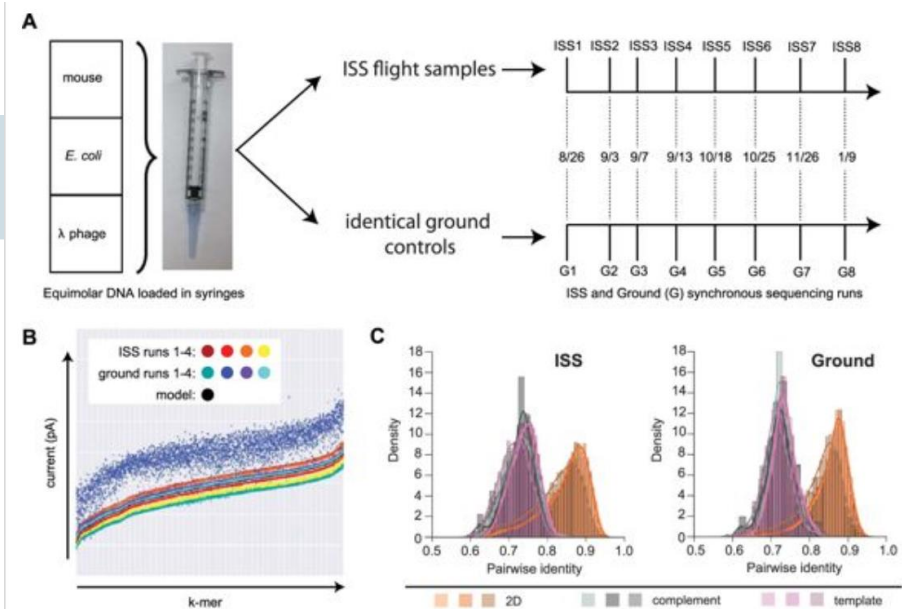


# The first genome sequenced and assembled off Earth

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

Article | OPEN | Published: 21 December 2017

## Nanopore DNA Sequencing and Genome Assembly on the International Space Station



Castro Wallace et al., 2017

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-18364-0>

# The first space epigenome



Article | **OPEN** | Published: 04 February 2019

## Single-molecule sequencing detection of N6-methyladenine in microbial reference materials

Alexa B. R. McIntyre, Noah Alexander, Kirill Grigorev, Daniela Bezdan, Heike Sichtig, Charles Y. Chiu & Christopher E. Mason 

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-08289-9> <https://github.com/al-mcintyre/mCaller>



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## Space Station



Aug. 29, 2016

# First DNA Sequencing in Space a Game Changer

For the first time ever, DNA was successfully sequenced in microgravity as part of the [Biomolecule Sequencer](#) experiment performed by NASA astronaut Kate Rubins this weekend aboard the [International Space Station](#). The ability to sequence the DNA of living organisms in space opens a whole new world of scientific and medical possibilities. Scientists consider it a game changer.

DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, contains the instructions each cell in an organism on Earth needs to live. These instructions are represented by the letters A, G, C and T, which stand for the four chemical bases of DNA, adenine, guanine, cytosine, and thymine. Both the number and arrangement of these bases differ among organisms, so their order, or sequence, can be used to identify a specific organism.

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Oct. 14, 2020

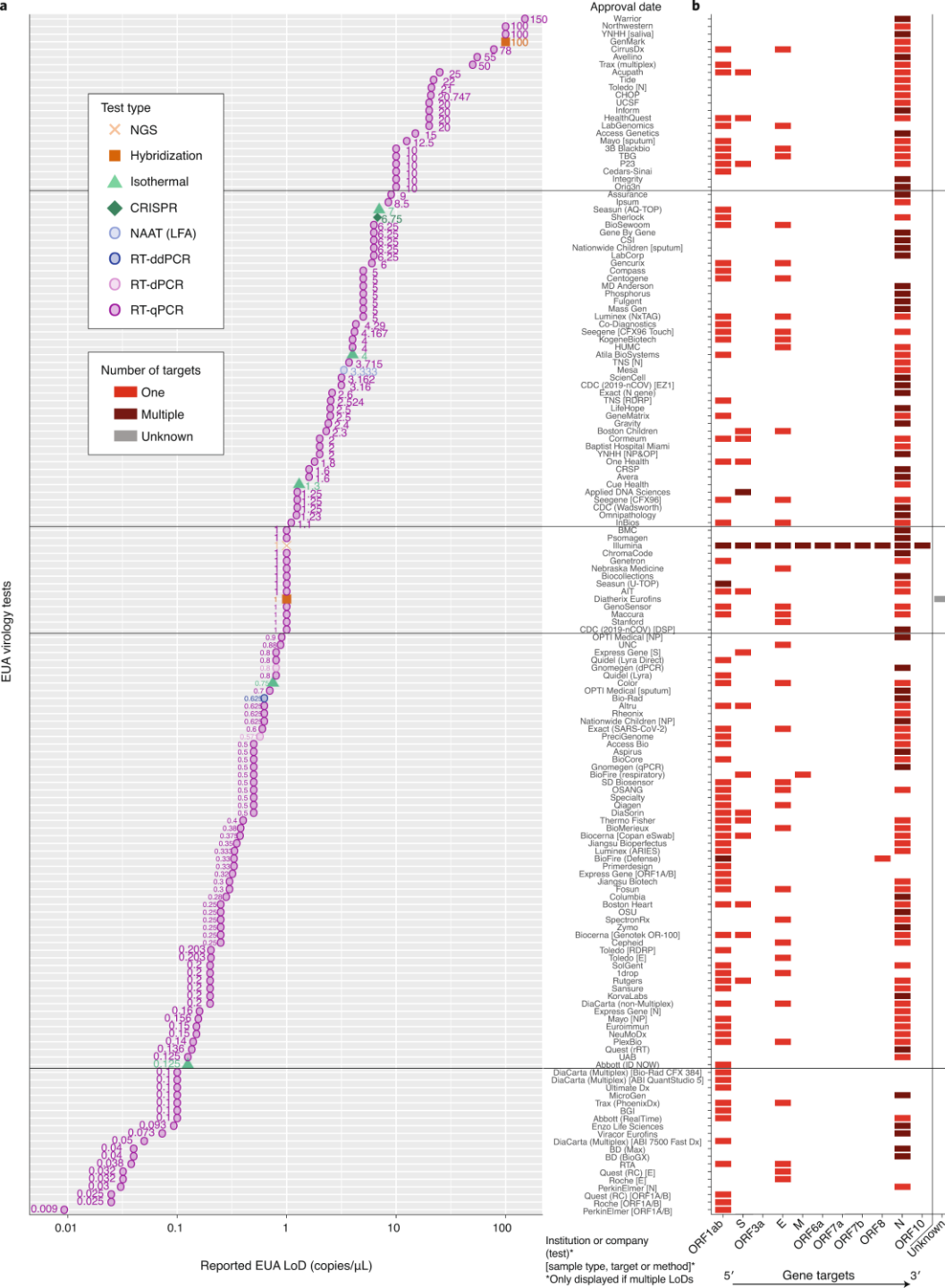
RELEASE 20-099

# NASA Astronaut Kate Rubins, Crewmates Arrive Safely at Space Station



New methods





# Also pushing to get more and more kinds of tests

Correspondence | Published: 20 August 2020

## The COVID-19 XPRIZE and the need for scalable, fast, and widespread testing

Matthew J. MacKay, Anna C. Hooker, Ebrahim Afshinnkoo, Marc Salit, Jason Kelly, Jonathan V. Feldstein, Nick Haft, Doug Schenkel, Subhalaxmi Nambi, Yizhi Cai, Feng Zhang, George Church, Junbiao Dai, Cliff L. Wang, Shawn Levy, Jeff Huber, Hanlee P. Ji, Alison Kriegel, Anne L. Wyllie & Christopher E. Mason ✉

*Nature Biotechnology* (2020) | Cite this article

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<https://xprize.org/prizes/covidtesting>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41587-020-0655-4>





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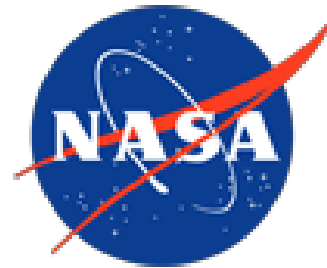


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# Deep Gratitude to Many People:



@mason\_lab

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