

Supplementary Methods.

SARS-CoV-2 Neutralization Assay

Sera were tested by a SARS-CoV-2-specific virus neutralization test (VNT) based on a

protocol described previously with modifications [12]. Two-fold serial dilutions, starting

at 1:10, of heat-inactivated serum samples (30 min 56 °C) were incubated in duplicate

with 100 TCID₅₀ of SARS-CoV-2 for 1h at 35 °C. In our experience as international reference laboratory for respiratory viruses (including other human coronaviruses) we have come to grow all other respiratory viruses at 35 °C rather than at 37C because they grow much better and too much higher yields at that temperature. For that reason, for SARS-CoV-2 also 35 °C was used. The titers achieved are higher than at 37 °C.

African green monkey (Vero-E6) cells were added in a concentration of 2×10^4 cells per well and incubated for three days at 35°C in an incubator with 5% CO₂. The 50%

and 90% VNT titer was defined as the highest serum dilution that protected more than 50% or 90% of cells from CPE was taken as the neutralization titre.. Samples with titers equal to 10 and higher were defined as SARS-CoV-2 seropositive.