

Archived Editions (COVID-19 Genomics and Precision Public Health Weekly Update)

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COVID-19 Genomics and Precision Public Health Weekly Update Content

- Pathogen and Human Genomics Studies
- Non-Genomics Precision Health Studies
- News, Reviews and Commentaries

Pathogen and Human Genomics Studies

- A Novel Diagnostic Test to Screen SARS-CoV-2 Variants Containing E484K and N501Y Mutations. (</PHGKB/phgHome.action?action=forward&dbsource=covUpdate&id=1195>)
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We experimentally interrogate thousands of ACE2 mutants to identify over one hundred human single-nucleotide variants (SNVs) that are likely to have altered recognition by the virus, and make the complementary discovery that ACE2 residues distant from the spike interface influence the ACE2-spike interaction.

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transmission in many countries and increasing mobility led to the emergence and spread within the continent of many variants of concern and interest, such as B.1.351, B.1.525, A.23.1 and C.1.1

- Immunogenicity of COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines in Pregnant and Lactating Women.

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In this cohort study involving 103 women who received a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine, 30 of whom were pregnant and 16 of whom were lactating, immunogenicity was demonstrated in all, and vaccine-elicited antibodies were found in infant cord blood and breast milk. Pregnant and nonpregnant vaccinated women developed cross-reactive immune responses against SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern.

- Effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines on covid-19 related symptoms, hospital admissions, and mortality in older adults in England: test negative case-control study. (/PHGKB/phgHome.action?action=forward&dbsource=covUpdate&id=1202)

Lopez Bernal Jamie et al. BMJ (Clinical research ed.) 2021 5 n1088

Vaccination with either one dose of BNT162b2 or ChAdOx1-S was associated with a significant reduction in symptomatic covid-19 in older adults, and with further protection against severe disease. Both vaccines showed similar effects. Protection was maintained for the duration of follow-up (>6 weeks). A second dose of BNT162b2 was associated with further protection against symptomatic disease. A clear effect of the vaccines against the B.1.1.7 variant was found

- SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance identifies naturally occurring truncation of ORF7a that limits immune suppression. (/PHGKB/phgHome.action?action=forward&dbsource=covUpdate&id=1204)

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Over 950,000 whole genome sequences of SARS-CoV-2 have been determined for viruses isolated from around the world. These sequences have been critical for understanding the spread and evolution of SARS-CoV-2. Using global phylogenomics, we show that mutations frequently occur in the C-terminal end of ORF7a. We have isolated one of these mutant viruses from a patient sample and used viral challenge experiments to link this isolate (ORF7a?115) to a growth defect. ORF7a has been implicated in immune modulation, and we show that the C-terminal truncation negates anti-immune activities of the protein, which results in elevated type I interferon response to the viral infection.

- Neutralizing antibody levels are highly predictive of immune protection from symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection (/PHGKB/phgHome.action?action=forward&dbsource=covUpdate&id=1206)

DS Khoury et al, Nature Medicine, May 17, 2021

Predictive models of immune protection from COVID-19 are urgently needed to identify correlates of protection to assist in the future deployment of vaccines. To address this, we analyzed the relationship between in vitro neutralization levels and the observed protection from SARS-CoV-2 infection using data from seven current vaccines and from convalescent cohorts. we show that neutralization level is highly predictive of immune protection, and provide an evidence-based model of SARS-CoV-2 immune protection that will assist in developing vaccine strategies to control the future trajectory of the pandemic.

- Rapidly emerging SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 sub-lineage in the United States of America with spike protein

D178H and membrane protein V70L mutations (/PHGKB/phgHome.action?action=forward&dbsource=covUpdate&id=1209)

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- Diverse Functional Autoantibodies in Patients with COVID-19 (/PHGKB/phgHome.action?action=forward&dbsource=covUpdate&id=1211)

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We used a high-throughput autoantibody (AAb) discovery technique called Rapid Extracellular Antigen Profiling (REAP)⁷ to screen a cohort of 194 SARS-CoV-2 infected COVID-19 patients and healthcare workers for autoantibodies against 2,770 extracellular and secreted proteins (the “exoproteome”). We found that COVID-19 patients exhibit dramatic increases in autoantibody reactivities compared to uninfected controls, with a high prevalence of autoantibodies against immunomodulatory proteins including cytokines, chemokines, complement components, and cell surface proteins.

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