Supplemental Figure 1: For the direct PCR analysis of the nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal (NOP) swabs, viral RNA was extracted directly from 50 µl of each NOP sample. For the VRA analysis, a 100 µl sample volume was used to inoculate the MDCK cells. The direct PCR analysis reflects the amount of viable and non-viable virus present in the original sample, while the VRA analysis shows the amount of virus produced by viable virus that infected the cultured MDCK cells. For both assays, the matrix gene copy number was normalized to the initial sample volume (3 ml). As can be seen, the amount of viable virus detected by the VRA correlates reasonably well with the total amount of viral RNA from viable and non-viable virus detected using a direct PCR assay (r2 = 0.730), but the amount of virus detected by the VRA is about 2 orders of magnitude higher.