

SARS-CoV-2 Viral Load in Saliva Rises Gradually and to Moderate Levels in Some Humans

NON-CORRESPONDING AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

AW - Collaborated with MMC, NS, RFI, YG, MF on initial study design and recruitment strategies; co-wrote IRB protocol and informed consent with MMC and NS; co-wrote enrollment questionnaire with NS and JJ; co-wrote participant informational sheets with NS and JAR; reagents and supplies acquisition; funding acquisition; assisted in sample logging system implementation with JTB; developed laboratory sample processing workflow with AER and MMC; performed nucleic acid extraction, and RT-qPCR; co-wrote and edited the manuscript; prepared Figure 1, Figure S1 with RA, Figure S2, Table S1 with NS, JAR and JJ, and Table S2.

MMC – Collaborated with AW, NS, RFI, YG, MF on initial study design and recruitment strategies; co-wrote IRB protocol and informed consent with AW and NS; assisted in the writing of the enrollment questionnaire; developed laboratory sample processing workflow with AW and AER; contributed to the analyses of the RT-qPCR and RT-ddPCR data; validated the LOD of the assay; funding acquisition; co-wrote and edited the manuscript.

NS - Study administrator; collaborated with AW, MMC, RFI, YG, MF on initial study design and recruitment strategies; co-wrote IRB protocol and informed consent with AW and MMC; co-wrote enrollment questionnaire with AW and JJ; co-wrote participant informational sheets with AW and JAR; enrolled and maintained study participants with JAR; reagents and supplies acquisition; co-wrote and edited the manuscript.

AER -Developed laboratory sample processing workflow with AW and MMC; reagents and supplies acquisition; developed and validated method for RT-qPCR and RT-digital droplet PCR analysis of extracted saliva samples; performed RT-qPCR and RT-digital droplet PCR;

JAR –Study coordinator; collaborated with NS, AW, RFI on recruitment strategies, translated study materials into Spanish, co-wrote informational sheets with AW and NS, enrolled and maintained study participants with NS.

JJ – Contributed to study design and study organization and implementation with NS and JAR; co-wrote enrollment questionnaire with NS and AW. Provided quality control and curation of participant data.

MP – Prepared participant sample collection materials, helped with supplies acquisition, and performed sample processing (RT-qPCR).

ES – Major contributor to biosafety SOPs and setting up lab workflow. Conducted biosafety training. Organized and coordinated lab work for the team. Performed sample processing including specimen logging and RT-qPCR. Minor contributor to validation of LOD of the assay.

JTB – Created specimen tracking database to aid in specimen logging and tracking.

RA – Provided literature review and processed data used in Figure S1.

CT – Coordinated the recruitment efforts at PPHD with case investigators and contact tracers.

MF – Co-investigator; collaborated with AW, MMC, NS, YG, RFI on study design and recruitment strategies; provided guidance and expertise on SARS-CoV-2 epidemiology and local trends.

YG – Co-investigator; collaborated with AW, MMC, NS, MF, RFI on study design and recruitment strategies; provided guidance and expertise on SARS-CoV-2 epidemiology and local trends.