

## Immune cells targeting core protein of virus are important for early immune defense against COVID-19

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Study overview, upper airways viral loads, and antibody-mediated neutralization of SARS-CoV-2. **a** Schematic representation of the study design. Donors were sampled weekly for 1 month and then periodically until 6 months after initial presentation. **b** Longitudinal quantification of upper airways viral loads (UA-VLs) in patients with mild COVID-19 (n = 25) recruited during the first week after symptom onset. Each line represents one donor. The green scale stratifies



patients according to days since symptom onset at presentation. **c** Pseudovirus neutralization titers ( $ID_{50}$ ) plotted versus days since symptom onset (DSO). Each dot represents one donor at one time point as follows: 0–7 DSO, n = 25; 8–14 DSO, n = 30; 15–21 DSO, n = 28; 22–28 DSO, n = 20; 29–35 DSO, n = 18; 36–52 DSO, n = 8; 53–95 DSO, n = 34; 144–219 DSO, n = 29. The cutoff is indicated by the dotted red line. Serum samples that did not achieve 50% neutralization ( $ID_{50}$ )

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