

1 **Durability of the Neutralizing Antibody Response to mRNA Booster Vaccination**
2 **Against SARS-CoV-2 BA.2.12.1 and BA.4/5 Variants**

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37 **Summary**

38

39 The recent emergence of the SARS-CoV-2 BA.4/5 and BA.2.12.1 variants has led
40 to rising COVID-19 case numbers and concerns over the continued efficacy of mRNA
41 booster vaccination. Here we examine the durability of neutralizing antibody (nAb)
42 responses against these SARS-CoV-2 Omicron subvariants in a cohort of health care
43 workers 1-40 weeks after mRNA booster dose administration. Neutralizing antibody titers
44 fell by ~1.5-fold 4-6 months and by ~2.5-fold 7-9 months after booster dose, with average
45 nAb titers falling by 11-15% every 30 days, far more stable than two dose induced
46 immunity. Notably, nAb titers from booster recipients against SARS-CoV-2 BA.1,
47 BA.2.12.1, and BA.4/5 variants were ~4.7-, 7.6-, and 13.4-fold lower than against the
48 ancestral D614G spike. However, the rate of waning of booster dose immunity was
49 comparable across variants. Importantly, individuals reporting prior infection with SARS-
50 CoV-2 exhibited significantly higher nAb titers compared to those without breakthrough
51 infection. Collectively, these results highlight the broad and stable neutralizing antibody
52 response induced by mRNA booster dose administration, implicating a significant role of
53 virus evolution to evade nAb specificity, versus waning humoral immunity, in increasing
54 rates of breakthrough infection.

55

56 **Key Words:**

57 SARS-CoV-2; Omicron; BA.2.12.1; BA.4; BA.5; mRNA Vaccine; Booster; Neutralizing
58 antibody; Vaccine durability

59 **Introduction**

60 The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has had devastating impacts
61 across the globe, with over 500 million confirmed cases and 6 million deaths worldwide
62 since its emergence (World Health Organization, 2022). Vaccines against the causative
63 agent, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), were rapidly
64 developed, including two mRNA vaccines, Moderna mRNA-1273 and Pfizer/BioNTech
65 BNT162b2. mRNA vaccination has led to a reduction in the number of COVID-19 cases,
66 as well as hospitalizations or deaths (Andrews et al., 2022; Chenchula et al., 2022; Scobie
67 et al., 2021). The standard regimen for these vaccines includes two doses separated by
68 about four weeks. This was later supplemented with an additional booster dose at least
69 six months after the second dose. Recent studies have demonstrated that humoral
70 immunity induced by two doses of mRNA vaccine wanes significantly over time, while a
71 booster dose can compensate for these effects, albeit to a lesser extent against Omicron
72 as compared to the Delta variant (Evans et al., 2022a; Qu et al., 2022; Richterman et al.,
73 2022). Critically, the durability of immunity stimulated by booster vaccination is currently
74 not well understood.

75 Over the course of the pandemic, SARS-CoV-2 has evolved to become more
76 transmissible and less sensitive to humoral immunity, resulting in several major SARS-
77 CoV-2 variants of concerns. Mutations such as K417N and E484K/A, present in the Beta,
78 Gamma, and Omicron variants, have led to increased resistance to neutralizing
79 antibodies (nAbs) (Ghimire et al., 2022; Rajpal et al., 2022). The Omicron variant in
80 particular has exhibited the most substantial immune evasion due to the alarming number
81 of amino acid mutations in its spike gene, totaling more than 30, with 16 concentrated in

82 the receptor binding domain (RBD) (O'Toole et al., 2021). Several subvariants of Omicron
83 have emerged, especially BA.4/5 and BA.2.12.1, creating new waves of COVID-19
84 across the globe. It has been established that these Omicron subvariants exhibit strong
85 resistance to nAbs induced by two-dose mRNA vaccination, but this resistance can be
86 partially overcome by booster vaccination (Evans et al., 2022b, 2022a; Qu et al., 2022;
87 Richterman et al., 2022). There have been reports that protection provided by a booster
88 dose can last at least 4 months post-vaccination (Ferdinands et al., 2022; Richterman et
89 al., 2022), but the durability of booster induced immunity past this timepoint remains
90 unclear. Additionally, the durability of booster protection against more recent Omicron
91 subvariants BA.2.12.1 and BA.4/5 has yet to be investigated. To address this, we
92 examine the nAb response in mRNA vaccinated and boosted health care workers
93 (HCWs) against major circulating SARS-CoV-2 Omicron subvariants from 1 to 9 months
94 post-booster administration. We observe modest waning of booster induced immunity that
95 is dependent on prior COVID-19 status, while the Omicron sub variants, especially
96 BA.4/5, exhibit strong neutralization resistance.

97

98 **Results**

99 *Omicron subvariants BA.4/5 and BA.2.12.1 substantially evade booster-induced*
100 *immunity*

101 Given ongoing concern for the durability of protection offered by the mRNA vaccine
102 booster doses, especially against Omicron variants, we examined neutralizing antibody
103 (nAb) titers against SARS-CoV-2 in a longitudinal cohort of HCWs from The Ohio State
104 University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio. These HCWs provided serum

105 samples every 3 months following administration of the second mRNA vaccine dose.
106 HCWs received homologous vaccine and booster courses consisting of the Moderna
107 mRNA-1273 (n = 24, Table S1) or Pfizer/BioNTech BNT162b2 (n = 22) mRNA vaccines.
108 Due to variability in the timing of booster dose administration, we classified the HCW
109 samples into 3 groups, i.e., 1-3 months post booster dose, 4-6 months post booster dose,
110 and 7-9 post booster dose (**Table S1**).

111 To examine the nAb responses against major circulating SARS-CoV-2 Omicron
112 subvariants, we utilized our previously reported pseudotyped lentivirus neutralization
113 assay (Zeng et al., 2020). We generated virus pseudotyped with spike protein from the
114 ancestral D614G SARS-CoV-2 or major SARS-CoV-2 Omicron subvariants, including the
115 original BA.1 Omicron variant, the recently dominant BA.2.12.1 variant, and the BA.5
116 variant currently rising in cases numbers in the United States (Centers for Disease Control
117 and Prevention, 2022).

118 All Omicron subvariants exhibited a significant reduction in nAb titers, presented
119 as 50% neutralization titers (NT₅₀), relative to D614G at all timepoints tested (**Fig 1**). At
120 1–3-months post-booster, nAb titers against BA.1 were 4.7-fold (p<0.0001), BA.2.12.1
121 were 7.6-fold (p<0.0001), and BA.4/5 were 13.4-fold (p<0.0001) lower than D614G (**Fig**
122 **1A and 1D**). At 4-6 months post-booster, nAb titers against BA.1 were 5.6-fold
123 (p<0.0001), BA.2.12.1 were 9.5-fold (p<0.0001), and BA.4/5 were 17.3-fold (p<0.0001)
124 lower than D614G (**Fig 1B and 1E**). Finally, at the 7-9 months timepoint, nAb titers against
125 BA.1 were 4.6-fold (p<0.0001), BA.2.12.1 were 7.0-fold (p<0.0001), and BA.4/5 were
126 13.4-fold (p<0.0001) lower than D614G (**Fig 1C and 1F**). Across all timepoints, BA.2.12.1
127 and BA.4/5 exhibited apparently reduced nAb titers compared to BA.1. For example, at

128 the 1-3 month timepoint, nAb titers against BA.2.12.1 were 1.6-fold lower than against
129 BA.1 ($p=0.28$) while for BA.4/5, nAb titers were 2.9-fold lower ($p<0.0001$) compared to
130 BA.1 (**Fig 1A**). Similar fold differences were maintained throughout the later timepoints
131 (4-6 months and 7-9 months post-booster) (**Fig 1B, 1E, 1C and 1F**). These results were
132 consistent with several recent studies using samples collected from one single time point.
133 No significant differences were observed for nAb titers between HCWs that received
134 Pfizer ($n=22$) or Moderna ($n=24$) ($p > 0.05$), and Male ($n=28$) or Female HCWs ($n=18$)
135 ($p > 0.05$) (**Fig S2A and S2B**).

136

137 *Durability of mRNA booster vaccination decays over time*

138 To determine the durability of the mRNA booster over the time course, we
139 analyzed nAb titers post booster dose administration for each of the variants. As would
140 be expected, the strength of virus neutralization against all 4 variants decreased over
141 time, with 2.3-2.5-fold drop from 1-3 month to 7-9 month post booster vaccination.
142 Correlative analyses showed an average of 15.3% ($p = 0.0003$), 13.5% ($p = 0.037$), 11.1%
143 ($p = 0.092$), and 12.3% ($p = 0.037$) decline in nAb titers per 30 days for the D614G, BA.1,
144 BA.2.12.1, and BA.4/5 variants, respectively (**Fig 2A-2D**). The similar rate of decay
145 seems to indicate that the waning of neutralizing antibody responses following booster
146 vaccination is not variant dependent.

147

148 *Breakthrough infection enhances the durability of immunity*

149 We next examined the impact of breakthrough infection on the durability of booster
150 vaccine-induced immunity. Over the course of the study, 14 HCWs experienced

151 breakthrough infections including 9 HCWs infected during the Omicron waves. Overall,
152 nAb titers were 2-6-fold higher for HCWs that experienced breakthrough infections at the
153 1-3 month ($p < 0.05$), 4-6 month ($p < 0.0001$), and 7-9 month ($p < 0.0001$) post-booster
154 ranges (**Fig 3A**). In particular, COVID-19 positive HCWs exhibited enhanced nAb titers
155 against the Omicron subvariants at both the 4-6 and 7-9 month timepoints (**Fig 3A**). This
156 indicates that breakthrough infection can enhance both nAb titers and the breadth of the
157 nAb response.

158 Additionally, we examined those HCWs that experienced breakthrough infection
159 during Omicron subvariant waves in Columbus, Ohio. These Omicron-wave infected
160 HCWs exhibited significantly increased nAb titers against BA.1, BA.2.12.1, and BA.4/5 at
161 the 4-6 and 7-9 month timepoints (**Fig 3B**). Within our cohort, 13 HCWs provided samples
162 in all three collection windows. Within this subset, those without any breakthrough
163 infection largely exhibited declining nAb titers throughout the study period, while those
164 who experienced breakthrough infection often recovered higher nAb titers (**Fig 3C-**
165 **F**). Together, these results highlight the impact of breakthrough infection, particularly by
166 Omicron subvariants, in enhancing the strength and breath of boosted vaccinees nAb
167 response.

168

169 *Administration of a second booster recovers neutralizing antibody titers*

170 Two HCWs in our cohort were administered a second booster dose of mRNA
171 vaccine about 7 months after receiving their first booster dose (**Table S2**). These two
172 HCWs exhibited higher nAb titers at 2-3 weeks post first booster vaccination but showed
173 a strong decline in nAb titers against all variants tested at about 4 months after receiving

174 the first booster (**Fig 4**). The decline was most dramatic against the Omicron subvariants
175 compared to D614G, with NT₅₀ values below the limit of detection (**Fig 4A, B, D, E, G**).
176 Remarkably, the administration of a second booster dose was able to recover nAb titers
177 to levels comparable with the ~2-3 week-post 1st booster timepoint, with a sample being
178 taken approximately 2 weeks post-second booster (**Fig 4C, F, G**). Hence, second booster
179 vaccination is needed to restore nAb levels in individuals, most of whom experience
180 dramatic declines following the first booster.

181

182 **Discussion**

183 To maintain protection against severe outcomes of COVID-19, it is critical to
184 understand how well and for how long booster vaccination induces robust levels of nAb
185 against emerging variants of SARS-CoV-2. In this study, we determined the durability of
186 mRNA booster vaccination in our cohort of HCWs against the most recent Omicron
187 subvariants BA.2.12.1, and BA.4/5, along with original BA.1 and prototype D614G. In
188 agreement with our previous reports, we demonstrate a marked reduction in nAb titer
189 against Omicron subvariants BA.1, BA.2.12.1, and BA.4/5 relative to D614G for post
190 booster vaccination samples (Evans et al., 2022c, 2022b; Qu et al., 2022).

191 Critically, our data demonstrates a modest decline, with ~2.5-fold decrease at 7-9
192 month following booster vaccination and 10-14% of nAb titer drop every 30 days, in
193 booster durability over time for all variants tested. This is in sharp contrast to the 7-10 fold
194 decrease in nAb titer 6 months after second mRNA dose (Evans et al., 2022a),
195 demonstrating a much more stable nAb titer than that provided by two doses of mRNA
196 vaccine. These results are consistent with reports of a reduction in vaccine efficacy

197 against infection and hospitalization up to four months post-booster dose (Ferdinands et
198 al., 2022; Richterman et al., 2022). The rate of decay suggests that at least an annual
199 booster vaccine may be required to provide sufficient protection against COVID-19 in the
200 coming years. Notably, the rate of decline in booster durability appears largely consistent
201 between each of the variants tested, including the prototype D614G and original Omicron
202 BA.1. However, the Omicron subvariants exhibit strong neutralization resistance overall.

203 Breakthrough infections represent an additional antigenic exposure that can
204 further boost nAb titers, especially against variants similar to the one with which the
205 individual was infected. We observed that HCWs who tested positive for COVID-19
206 exhibit significant boosts in nAb titers for all variants tested and at nearly every time point.
207 Importantly, this effect appears most robust against the Omicron subvariants (up to 8-
208 fold) when compared to D614G (about 2-3 fold), especially for those HCWs that were
209 infected during Omicron waves. These data suggest that an Omicron-specific antigenic
210 exposure provides a critical boost to nAb titers against BA.1, BA.2.12.1, and BA.4/5.

211 Overall, we demonstrate that booster durability declines over time, but to a much
212 lesser extent compared to the decay of nAb provided by two doses of mRNA vaccine
213 alone. While the rate of booster nAb durability decay is similar among variants, the
214 Omicron subvariants, especially BA.4/5, exhibit substantial neutralization resistance. This
215 may suggest that SARS-CoV-2 variant evolution leading to immune evasion in a HCW
216 cohort plays a more critical role in determining booster efficacy than the passage of time,
217 given the modest waning of booster-induced immunity. It should be noted that the relative
218 waning of booster induced immunity in vulnerable populations, including the elderly,
219 remains to be investigated. Our study suggests a fourth dose of vaccine, or second

220 booster, and perhaps an Omicron-specific booster, may become necessary. As new
221 variants evolve, vaccine reformulation may be required to maintain sufficient protection
222 from emerging strains.

223

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240

241 **Author Contributions**

242 S.-L.L. conceived and directed the project. P.Q. performed most of the
243 experiments. J.N.F, J.P.E. assisted in experiments and contributed data processing and
244 analyses. C.C., G.L., R.J.G. provided clinical samples. P.Q., J.N.F., J.P.E., and S.-L.L.
245 wrote the paper. Y.-M.Z, L.J.S., E.M.O., and R.J.G. provided insightful discussion and
246 revision of the manuscript.

247

248 **Declaration of Interests**

249 The authors declare no competing interests.

250

251 **Figure Legends**

252 **Figure 1: Omicron subvariants BA.4/5 and BA.2.12.1 exhibit strong escape from**
253 **neutralization that is maintained over time post booster vaccination.** These plots
254 depict the nAb titers for the ancestral SARS-CoV-2 spike with the D614G mutation and
255 the Omicron subvariants BA.1, BA.2.12.1, and BA.4/5 in serum samples from HCWs
256 collected at **(A)** 1-3 months, **(B)** 4-6 months, and **(C)** 7-9 months after receiving a booster
257 dose of mRNA vaccine. Dots represent individual samples while the horizontal dashed
258 line represents the limit of detection. Geometric means of the NT₅₀ values are provided at
259 the top of the graph for each of the variants within each timepoint. Error bars represent
260 95% confidence intervals. **(D-F)** Corresponding heatmaps depicting NT₅₀ values for each
261 individual receiving either Moderna (M) or Pfizer (P) mRNA vaccine against each variant
262 sorted by timepoint post-booster, **(D)** 1-3 months, **(E)** 4-6 months, and **(F)** 7-9 months.
263 Significance values in **(A-C)** represent comparisons to D614G calculated with one-way

264 repeated measures ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple testing correction. P-values are
265 indicated as **** $p < 0.0001$.

266

267 **Figure 2: Durability of booster-induced nAb titers wanes over time.** nAb titers against
268 D614G and the Omicron subvariants BA.1, BA.2.12.1, and BA.4/5 in serum from HCWs
269 collected after receiving a booster dose of mRNA vaccine are depicted as a function of
270 number of days after receiving the booster. Each dot represents an individual sample, the
271 line represents the best linear fit for the trend of nAb titer over time. Significance and slope
272 for the trendline are listed at the top of each graph. Correlative analysis of nAb titers and
273 time post booster dose administration was made using a least-squares fit linear
274 regression model. Exact p-values are noted.

275

276 **Figure 3: Breakthrough infection with SARS-CoV-2 increases and maintains nAb**
277 **titers against Omicron subvariants.** Depicted in this plot are the nAb titers against
278 D614G and the Omicron subvariants BA.1, BA.2.12.1, and BA.4/5 in sera from HCWs
279 collected after receiving a booster dose of mRNA vaccine separated by self-reported
280 COVID-19 infection status. **(A)** Neutralizing antibody titers are displayed for HCWs that
281 were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 versus those that remained uninfected
282 throughout the study, sorted by the timepoints 1-3, 4-6, and 7-9 months-post booster
283 dose. **(B)** Neutralizing antibody titers are displayed for HCWs that were infected during
284 the Omicron wave in Columbus, Ohio versus those that remained uninfected throughout
285 the study at the same timepoints. **(C-F)** Neutralizing antibody titers are displayed for 13
286 HCWs which provided all 3 sample collection timepoints. The NT₅₀ values for each

287 individual over time are depicted for each of the variants. Here, purple, open circles
288 represent samples collected prior to any COVID-19 diagnosis while blue, closed circles
289 represent samples that were collected after COVID-19 diagnosis. Lines between dots
290 connect the individual HCW's data points over the time course. Comparisons between
291 groups in panels **(A and B)** were made using a two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-
292 test. P-values are noted as ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$, and ns= $p > 0.05$.

293

294 **Figure 4: Administration of a second mRNA booster dose recovers nAb titers.**

295 Neutralization curves are depicted for two HCWs (designated as HCW #1 and HCW #2)
296 in the cohort that received a second mRNA booster vaccination. Individual curves
297 represent the different variants tested (D614G, Omicron subvariants BA.1, BA.2.12.1, and
298 BA.4/5). Days after administration of the first booster dose are listed in panels **(A), (B),**
299 **(D), and (E)** while days after administration of the second booster are listed in **(C and F)**.
300 Both HCWs received the second booster about 7 months after the first booster dose. **(G)**
301 Table summarizing the NT₅₀ values for each HCW against each of the variants at
302 timepoints pre- and post-second booster.

303

304 **STAR Methods**

305 **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

306 *Lead contact*

307 Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to the
308 lead contact, Dr. Shan-Lu Liu (liu.6244@osu.edu).

309

310 *Materials availability*

311 Plasmids generated in this study are available upon request made to the lead contact.

312

313 *Data and code availability*

314 • NT50 values and de-identified health care worker information will be deposited
315 to the National Cancer Institute SeroNet Coordinating Center. Additionally,
316 NT50 values and de-identified patient information reported in this paper will be
317 shared by the lead contact upon request.

318 • This paper does not report original code.

319 • Any additional information required to reanalyze the data reported in this paper
320 is available from the lead contact upon request.

321

322 **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**

323 *Vaccinated cohort*

324 Summary data on the HCW cohort is available in supplementary Table S1 and
325 Table S2. Vaccinated HCW samples were collected under approved IRB protocols
326 (2020H0228 and 2020H0527). In the study group, 46 HCWs received homologous
327 vaccine and booster doses. Sera were collected at 3-month intervals after receiving the
328 second dose of mRNA vaccine. Booster dose administration was variable within the study
329 period resulting in sample collections occurring 1-9 months post booster dose
330 administration, which are divided into 3 groups, i.e., 1-3 month, 4-6 month and 7-9 month
331 with a total of 101 post-booster samples. These samples included 24 Moderna mRNA-

332 1273 and 22 Pfizer/BioNTech BNT162b2 boosted HCWs. Dates of prior COVID-19
333 diageneses were self-reported.

334

335 *Cell lines and maintenance*

336 Human embryonic kidney cell line HEK293T (ATCC CRL-11268, RRID:
337 CVCL_1926) and HEK293T overexpressing human ACE2 (BEI NR-52511, RRID:
338 CVCL_A7UK) were cultured in DMEM (Gibco, 11965-092) supplemented with 10% FBS
339 (Sigma, F1051) and 0.5% penicillin-streptomycin (HyClone, SV30010). Cells were
340 maintained in 10cm dishes and incubated at 37°C and 5.0% CO₂. For passaging, cells
341 were first washed in Dulbecco's phosphate buffer saline (Sigma, D5652-10X1L), and
342 incubated in 0.05% Trypsin + 0.53 mM EDTA (Corning, 25-052-CI) for detachment.

343

344 **METHOD DETAILS**

345 *Plasmids*

346 Our pseudotyped lentiviral stocks were produced using our previously reported
347 HIV-1-based vector (pNL4-3-inGluc) carrying a *Gaussia* luciferase reporter gene that is
348 expressed and secreted by virally infected cells (Goerke et al., 2008; Mazurov et al., 2010;
349 Zeng et al., 2020). SARS-CoV-2 spike constructs were generated and cloned into the
350 pcDNA3.1 plasmid backbone using KpnI and BamHI restriction enzyme cloning by
351 GenScript Biotech (Piscataway, NJ). These spike constructs bear N- and C-terminal
352 FLAG tags.

353

354 *Pseudotyped lentivirus production*

355 Pseudotyped lentiviral vectors were produced as previously reported (Evans et al.,
356 2022a). HEK293T cells were transfected with the pNL4-3-inGluc vector alongside the
357 spike construct of interest in a 2:1 ratio using polyethyleneimine transfection. Virus
358 produced by the cells was harvested by collecting and replacing the culture media 48-,
359 and 72-hours post-transfection. The relative infectivity of the viruses was determined in
360 HEK293T-ACE2 cells by measuring *Gaussia* luciferase activity 48- and 72-hours post-
361 infection; equivalent infectious viruses for each variant were used for the neutralization
362 assay. Luciferase assays were conducted by taking a 20 μ L sample of infected cell culture
363 media and combining it with 20 μ L of *Gaussia* luciferase substrate (0.1 M Tris pH 7.4, 0.3
364 M sodium ascorbate, 10 μ M coelenterazine) and immediately measuring luminescence
365 using a BioTek Cytation5 plate reader with Gen5 Microplate Reader and Imager Software
366 version 3.03.

367

368 *Virus neutralization assay*

369 Neutralization assays using pseudotyped lentiviral vectors were conducted as previously
370 described (Evans et al., 2022a; Zeng et al., 2020, 2021b, 2021a) HCW serum samples
371 were first serially diluted 4-fold (final dilutions 1: 80, 1:320, 1:1280, 1:5120, 1:20480, and
372 no serum control) and combined with equal amounts of SARS-CoV-2 pseudotyped
373 vector. The diluted sera and vector mix was then incubated 1 hour at 37°C then used to
374 infect HEK293T-ACE2 cells. *Gaussia* luciferase activity was assessed 48- and 72-hours
375 post infection as described in the previous section. NT50 values were determined by
376 least-squares-fit, non-linear regression in GraphPad Prism 9 (San Diego, CA).

377

378 **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

379 All statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism 9 and are described
380 in the figure legends. NT₅₀ values were determined by least-squares fit non-linear
381 regression in GraphPad Prism 9. Throughout, statistical significance was determined
382 using log₁₀ transformed NT₅₀ values to better approximate normality. Bars represent
383 geometric means with 95% confidence intervals (Fig. 1A-C) and indicate means ± SEM
384 (Fig 3A-B, S2). Generally, comparisons between multiple groups were made using a one-
385 way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test (Fig. 1A-C, S1) or two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni
386 post-test (Fig. 3 A-B). Correlative analysis of nAb titers and time post booster dose
387 administration was made using a least-squares fit linear regression model (Fig. 2A-D).
388 Comparisons between two-groups were made using a two-tailed student's t-test with
389 Welch's correction (Fig. S2 A-B). Due to small sample sizes, analysis of the influence of
390 sex could not be performed without the influence of confounding variables including
391 vaccination status, vaccine type, and time since vaccination skewing the analysis.

392

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462

Table S1: Demographic and sample collection information of HCWs

	1~3 months	4~6 months	7~9 months
Age in Years at Sample Collection			
[Median (Range)]	35 (26-61)	35 (25-58)	36.5 (25-61)
Gender [n (% of Total)]			
Male	20 (71.4%)	20 (54.1%)	21 (58.3%)
Female	8 (28.6%)	17 (45.9%)	15 (41.7%)
Sample Collection Window	Oct. 2021-Feb. 2022	Feb. 2022-Jun. 2022	Feb. 2022-Jun. 2022
Type of 1st Booster Dose Vaccine [n (% of Total)]			
Pfizer	17 (60.7%)	17 (45.9%)	17 (47.2%)
Moderna	11 (39.3%)	20 (54.1%)	19 (52.8%)
Sample Collection Timing [Median (Range)]			
Days post 1 st Booster Dose	42 (7-86)	112 (92-178)	212.5 (182-283)
Prior SARS-CoV-2 Infection Confirmed by PCR [n (% of Total)]			
Prior Omicron Wave Infection	4 (14.3%)	4 (10.8%)	3 (8.3%)
Omicron Wave Infection	2 (7.1%)	5 (13.5%)	8 (22.2%)

Summary information for the HCW sera samples collected post 1st booster dose of mRNA vaccine is shown.

Table S2: Sample collection information of two HCWs receiving 2nd booster dose of vaccine

	HCW-#1	HCW-#2
Gender	Female	Male
Age at Collection	48	48
COVID-19 Status	Negative	Negative
Type of Vaccine		
Type of 1 st Booster Dose Vaccine	Pfizer	Pfizer
Type of 2 nd Booster Dose Vaccine	Pfizer	Pfizer
Sample Collection Timing		
Days Post 1 st booster dose (Days Pre 2 nd booster dose)	21 (215)	16 (194)
Days Post 1 st booster dose (Days Pre 2 nd booster dose)	130 (106)	122 (88)
Days Post 1 st booster dose (Days Post 2 nd booster dose)	252 (16)	228 (18)

Summary information of the sera samples of two HCWs who received two booster doses of vaccine is shown.

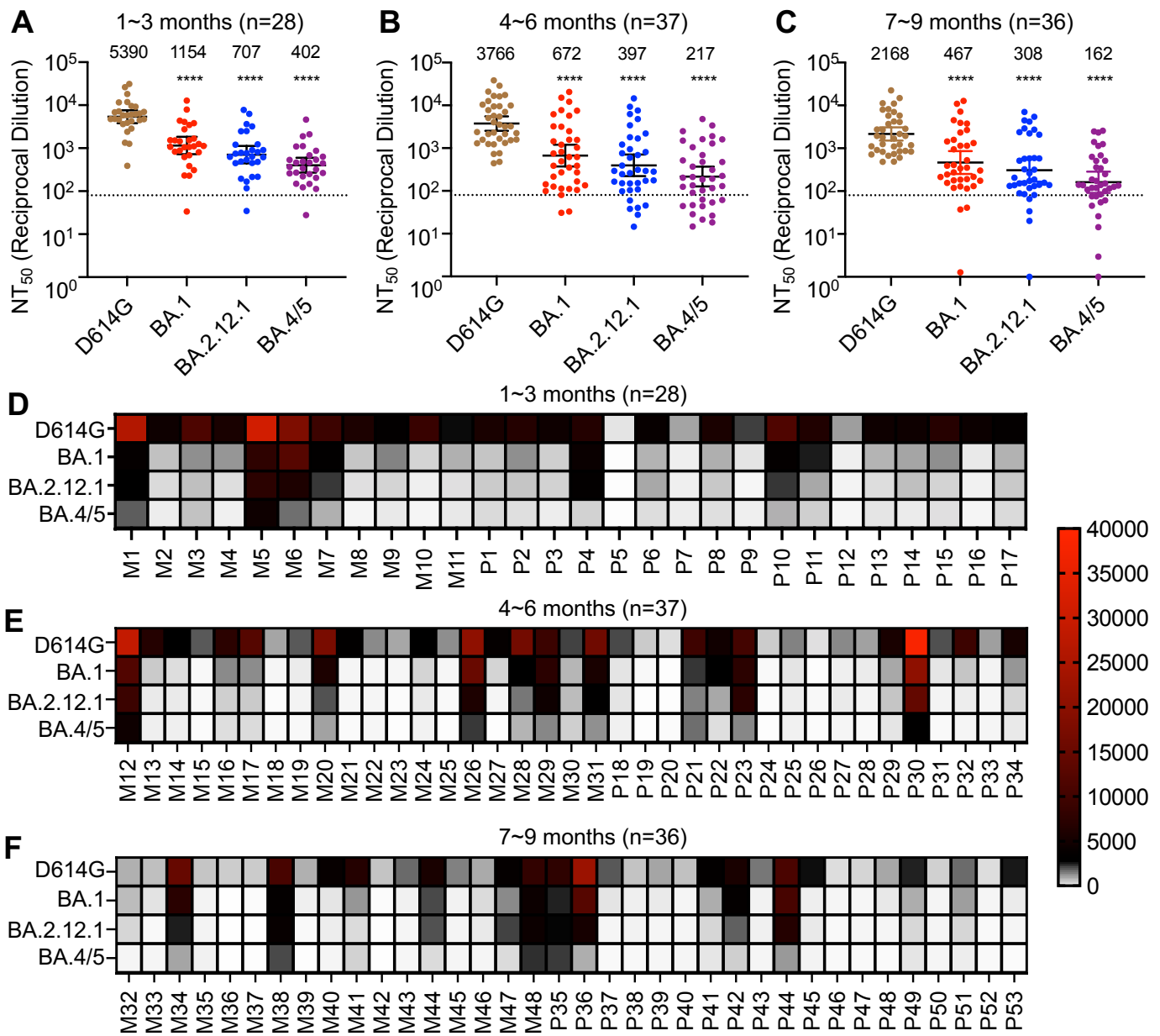


Figure 1

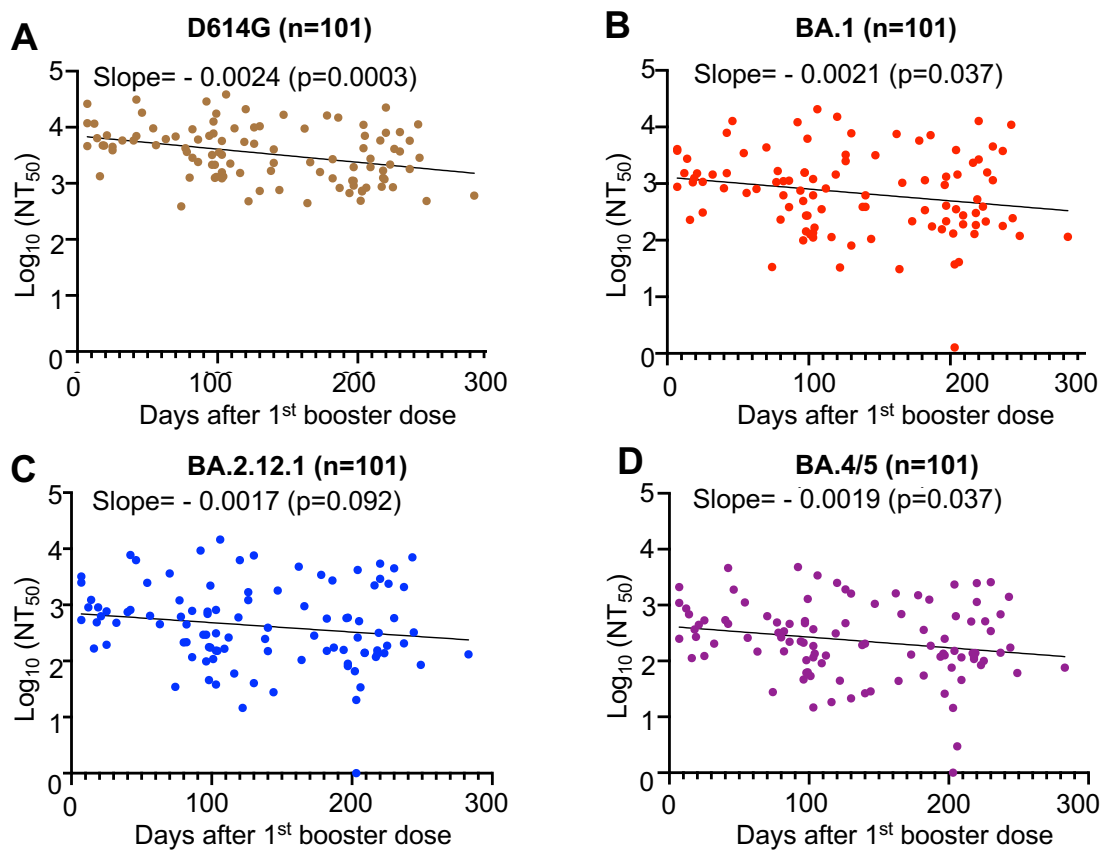


Figure 2

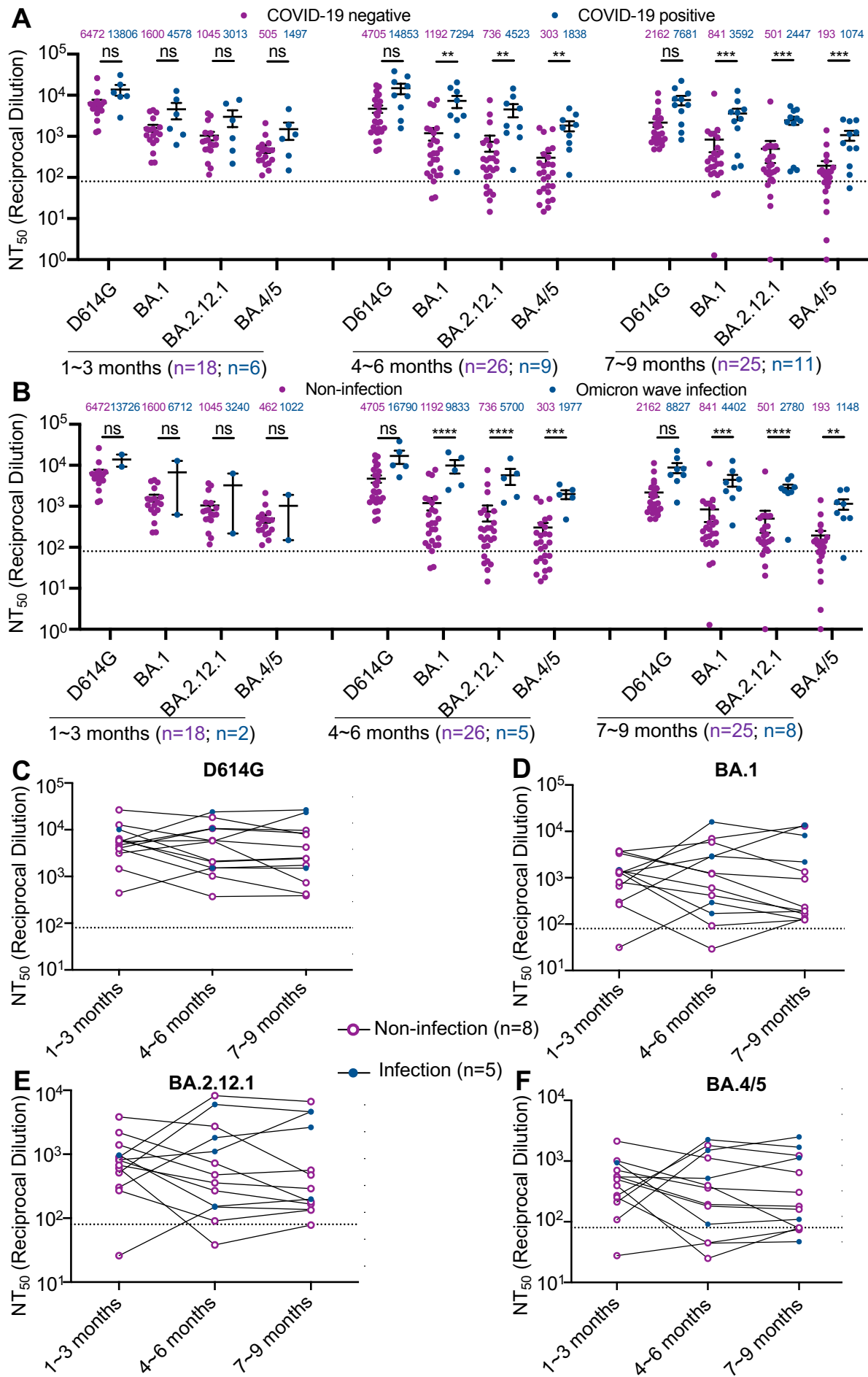


Figure 3

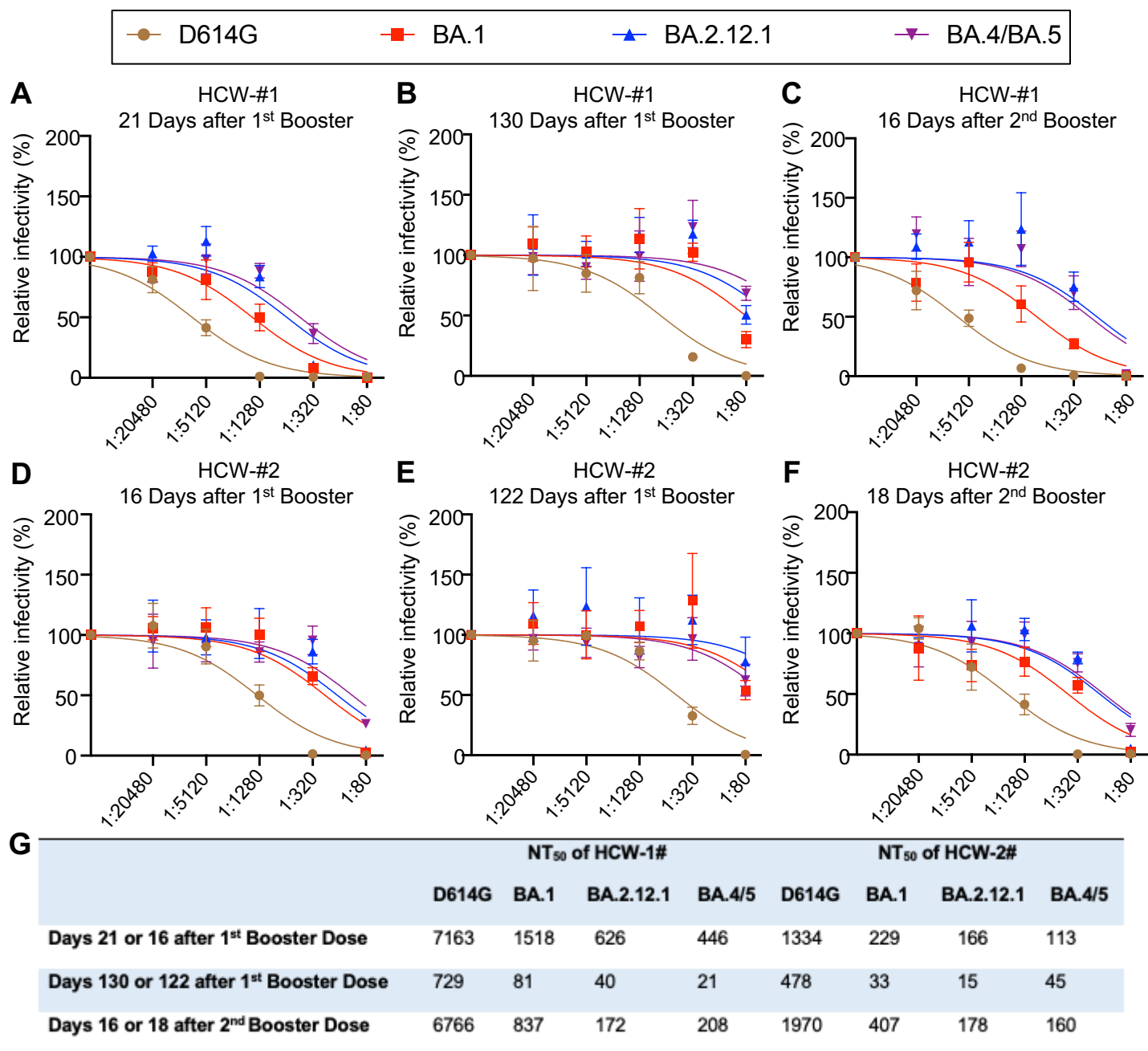


Figure 4

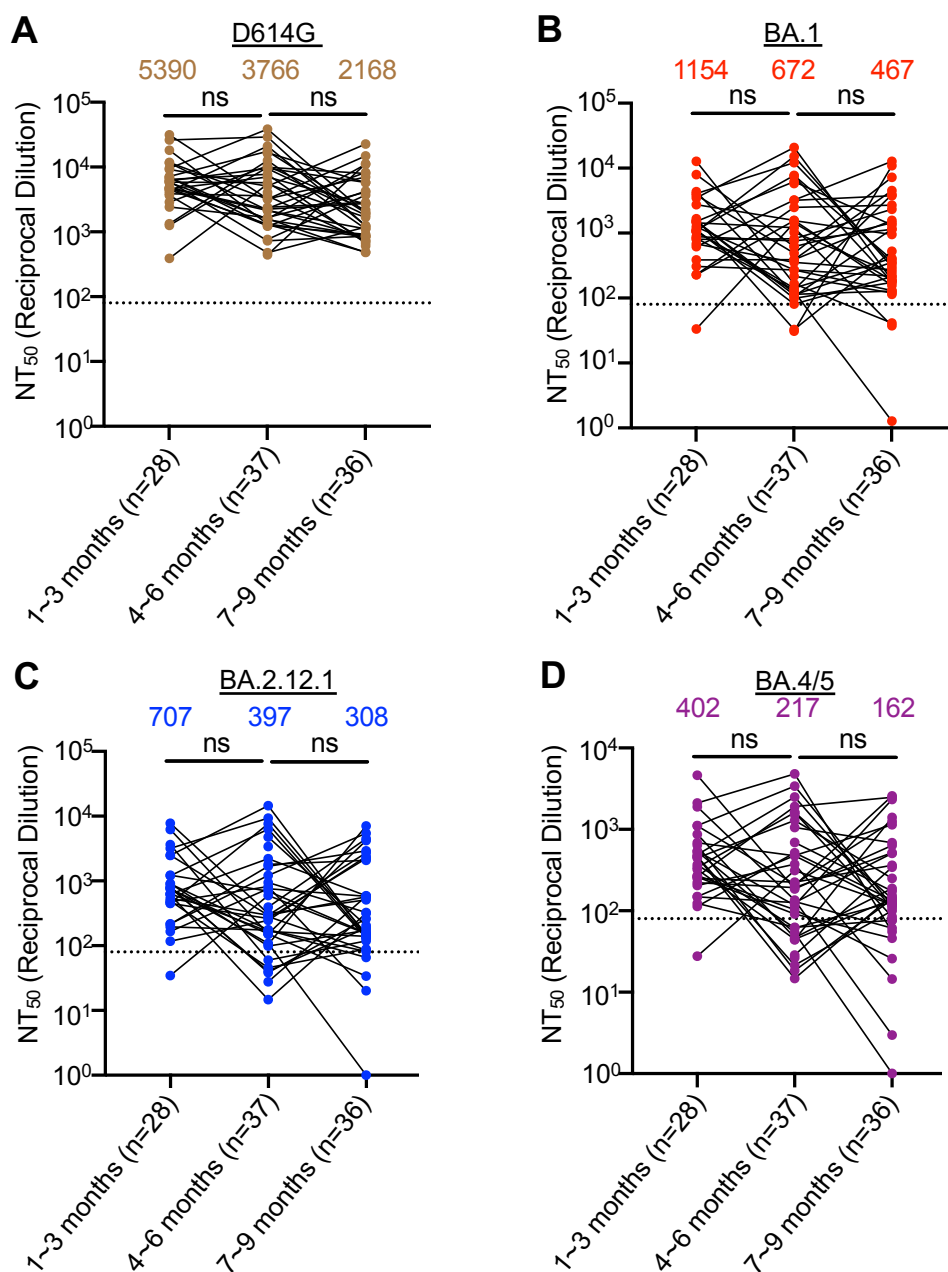


Figure S1: Booster vaccination-induced nAb response exhibits modest waning over time, related to Figure 1. Here, nAb titers in serum samples from HCWs collected at 1-3, 4-6, and 7-9 months after receiving a booster dose of mRNA vaccine are sorted by on the variant being tested for **(A)** D614G, **(B)** BA.1, **(C)** BA.2.12.1, and **(D)** BA.4/5. Dots represent individual samples; lines connect dots that were from the same individual HCW. Significance values were determined using a one-way ANOVA. P-values are represented as ns=not significant.

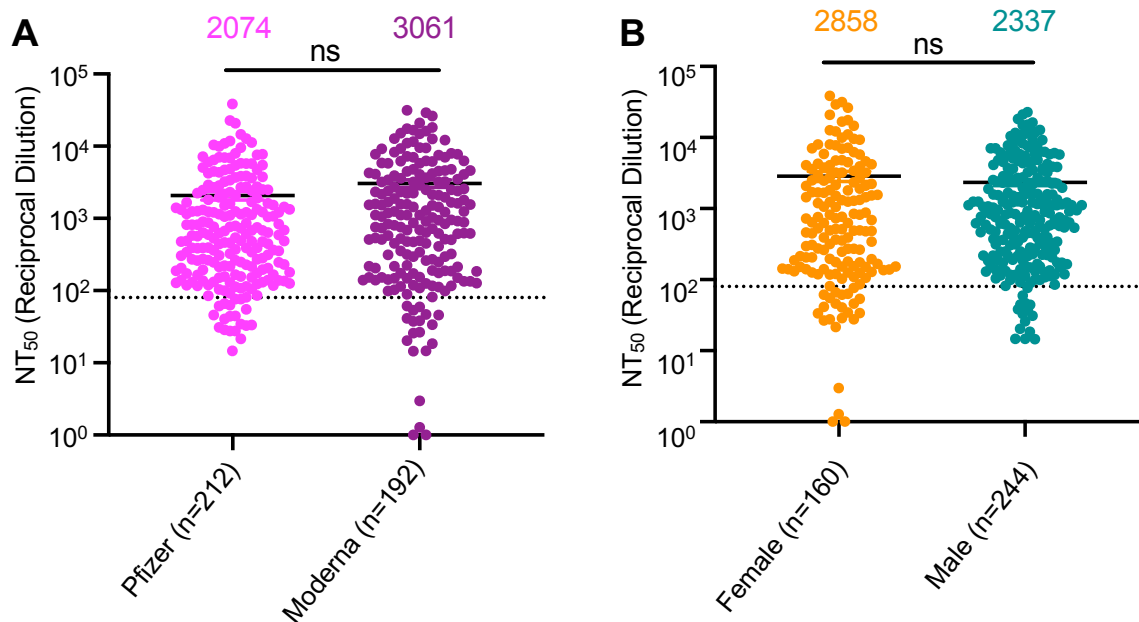


Figure S2: Booster vaccination-induced nAb response does not vary between vaccine manufacturer or HCW sex, related to Figure 1. Displayed are the nAb titers for sera from HCWs for all 3 timepoints (1-3 months, 4-6 months, and 7-9 months) and all 4 variants (D614G, BA.1, BA.2.12.1, and BA.4/5) pooled together and separated by **(A)** vaccine manufacturer and **(B)** sex. Comparisons were made using a two-tailed student's t-test with Welch's correction. P-values are represented as ns=not significant.