

1 **Remdesivir and GS-441524 retain antiviral activity against Delta, Omicron,**
2 **and other emergent SARS-CoV-2 variants**

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14

15 **Abstract**

16 Genetic variation of SARS-CoV-2 has resulted in the emergence and rapid spread of multiple
17 variants throughout the pandemic, of which Omicron is currently the predominant variant
18 circulating worldwide. SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern or interest (VOC/VOI) have evidence
19 of increased viral transmission, disease severity, or decreased effectiveness of vaccines and
20 neutralizing antibodies. Remdesivir (RDV, VEKLURY[®]) is a nucleoside analog prodrug and the
21 first FDA-approved antiviral treatment of COVID-19. Here we present a comprehensive antiviral
22 activity assessment of RDV and its parent nucleoside, GS-441524, against 10 current and former
23 SARS-CoV-2 VOC/VOI clinical isolates by nucleoprotein ELISA and plaque reduction assay.

24 Delta and Omicron variants remained susceptible to RDV and GS-441524, with EC₅₀ values 0.31
25 to 0.62-fold of those observed against the ancestral WA1 isolate. All other tested variants
26 exhibited EC₅₀ values ranging from 0.15 to 2.3-fold of the observed EC₅₀ values against WA1.
27 Analysis of nearly 6 million publicly available variant isolate sequences confirmed that Nsp12,
28 the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) target of RDV and GS-441524, is highly
29 conserved across variants with only 2 prevalent changes (P323L and G671S). Using recombinant
30 viruses, both RDV and GS-441524 retained potency against all viruses containing frequent
31 variant substitutions or their combination. Taken together, these results highlight the conserved
32 nature of SARS-CoV-2 Nsp12 and provide evidence of sustained SARS-CoV-2 antiviral activity
33 of RDV and GS-441524 across the tested variants. The observed pan-variant activity of RDV
34 supports its continued use for the treatment of COVID-19 regardless of the SARS-CoV-2
35 variant.

36 **Keywords:** remdesivir, GS-441524, Nsp12, SARS-CoV-2 variants, COVID-19, antiviral

37 **1. Introduction**

38 Since the emergence of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in late
39 2019, two lineages, numerous variants, and subvariants have been detected through genomic
40 surveillance. As with other coronaviruses, SARS-CoV-2 variants emerge through inter- and
41 intramolecular recombination and from heritable errors generated in the viral genome by its
42 error-prone RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) (1, 2). Retention of genetic changes in a
43 viral genome may be linked to advantages in replication fitness and/or in overcoming selective
44 pressures exerted by the host immune system, an antiviral, or a therapeutic neutralizing antibody.
45 Naturally occurring SARS-CoV-2 variants can be categorized as variants of concern (VOC) or
46 interest (VOI) by the World Health Organization (WHO) or Centers for Disease Control and

47 Prevention (CDC) based on evidence of increased rates of transmission and disease severity,
48 detection failures, or potential loss in susceptibility to current vaccines and neutralizing
49 antibodies. The early ancestral A lineage isolates detected in Wuhan, China and Seattle, WA
50 (WA1 strain) were rapidly replaced worldwide by the B lineage VOC Alpha in 2020 (3).
51 Subsequently, multiple VOIs and dominant VOCs of the B lineage progressively emerged, with
52 Delta and most recently Omicron completely replacing prior strains (4-6). The defining genetic
53 changes that differentiate variants predominantly occur in the gene encoding the spike protein,
54 which mediates virus binding, fusion, and entry. However, changes are also detected elsewhere
55 in the viral genomes, resulting in infrequent amino acid substitutions in the Nsp5 3CL main
56 protease (Mpro) and Nsp12 RdRp, the two targets of currently approved SARS-CoV-2 antivirals.
57 Remdesivir (RDV; VEKLURY[®]) (7) was the first antiviral approved for the treatment of patients
58 hospitalized with COVID-19 based on evidence that RDV treatment significantly reduced
59 recovery times in clinical trials (8-10). Further, in the PINETREE clinical trial, in which RDV
60 was administered in an outpatient setting, RDV reduced COVID-19 related hospitalization and
61 death by 87% (11). These results led to an expanded FDA approval of RDV for high-risk non-
62 hospitalized individuals with COVID-19 symptoms (12).

63 RDV is a nucleotide mono-phosphoramidate prodrug of the parent nucleoside GS-441524 (13).
64 Following IV administration, RDV is metabolized intracellularly to the active triphosphate
65 metabolite (RDV-TP), effectively bypassing the rate-limiting first phosphorylation step of GS-
66 441524. RDV-TP then competes efficiently with cellular ATP for incorporation into the nascent
67 SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA, resulting in cessation of strand-synthesis by two separate mechanisms
68 of action (14, 15). Prior to the emergence of SARS-CoV-2, RDV and its parent nucleoside GS-
69 441524 were shown to inhibit multiple RNA viruses (16-18), including a broad spectrum of

70 coronaviruses such as SARS-CoV, Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-
71 CoV), mouse hepatitis virus (MHV), and other zoonotic coronaviruses (19-22). Additionally,
72 potent antiviral activity of RDV was observed in primary lung cells *in vitro* and confirmed *in*
73 *vivo* across multiple respiratory viruses including respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (18), Nipah
74 (23), SARS-CoV (20), and MERS-CoV (22).

75 The RdRp catalytic active site is nearly 100% conserved among coronaviruses, therefore the
76 observed potency of RDV against other coronaviruses was anticipated to translate to SARS-
77 CoV-2 antiviral activity (21). RDV and GS-441524 have both demonstrated potency against
78 SARS-CoV-2, with *in vitro* cellular EC₅₀ values ranging from 10 to 120 nM for RDV and 470 to
79 3600 nM for GS-441524 (13, 24-27). The *in vivo* efficacy of RDV has been demonstrated in
80 SARS-CoV-2 challenge studies in mice and hamsters (13, 28, 29). Additionally, RDV efficacy
81 was demonstrated in non-human primates following several different routes of administration
82 including IV, SC, and inhalation (30-32).

83 The low sequence diversity and high genetic stability of the SARS-CoV-2 RNA replication
84 complex, including the Nsp12 RdRp, observed over time indicates a minimal global risk of pre-
85 existing resistance to RDV (33). However, the emergence of each new variant brings a risk of
86 altered susceptibility to vaccine-induced immunity, therapeutic antibodies, or antivirals. In this
87 report, we demonstrate that *in vitro* potencies of RDV and GS-441524 are preserved among the
88 known prominent SARS-CoV-2 variants as well as against recombinant viruses harboring
89 specific substitutions frequently observed in variant Nsp12.

90

91 2. Results

92 *Antiviral activity of RDV and GS-441524 against clinical isolates of SARS-CoV-2 variants*

93 *In vitro* RDV antiviral activity was assessed against clinical isolates of an extensive panel of past
94 and present SARS-CoV-2 VOC/VOIs (Supplemental Table 1). Antiviral activity was initially
95 assessed utilizing a plaque reduction assay (PRA) from culture supernatants harvested at 48
96 hours post-infection (hpi) from A549-ACE2-TMPRSS2 cultures infected with variants at an
97 MOI of 0.1. The average RDV EC₅₀ value for the WA1 reference strain by PRA was 98 ± 48
98 nM, while variant EC₅₀ values ranged from 15 to 154 nM, representing 0.15- to 1.6-fold changes
99 relative to WA1 (Table 1 and Fig. 1A). These results indicate that RDV retains potent antiviral
100 activity against all variants evaluated by PRA, including the Delta variant, which was ~3-fold
101 more susceptible to RDV than the WA1 isolate.

102 To assess the antiviral effect directly in infected cultures, antiviral testing based on the
103 nucleoprotein (N) enzyme-linked immunoassay (ELISA) was developed and conducted in
104 addition to PRA. The EC₅₀ of RDV against the WA1 reference strain by ELISA was 110 ± 42
105 nM (Table 1 and Fig. 1B), indicating that antiviral potency of RDV is consistent between PRA
106 and ELISA. Variants tested in ELISA had average RDV EC₅₀ values ranging from 70 to 258 nM
107 with observed fold EC₅₀ changes from 0.59 to 2.33 (Table 1 and Fig. 1B). Due to the low signal
108 observed with the Omicron variant at the standard 48 h timepoint, likely stemming from the
109 reduced *in vitro* replication efficiency of Omicron (34), the assay was extended to 72 h and
110 compared with WA1 assessed at the same timepoint. The WA1 reference isolate at 72 hpi had an
111 average RDV EC₅₀ of 97 ± 15 nM. Thus, delaying the readout to 72 hpi had no effect on the
112 observed potency of RDV. The Omicron variant was significantly more susceptible to RDV with
113 an average EC₅₀ value of 44 ± 16 nM (p≤0.0001), a 0.45-fold change compared to WA1.

114 The potency of GS-441524, the parent nucleoside of RDV, was also unchanged against all
115 variants and the WA1 reference isolate, as measured by ELISA at 48 hpi. The EC₅₀ of GS-
116 441524 at this timepoint against WA1 was 5600 ± 4100 nM and ranged from 2100 to 8790 nM
117 (0.53- to 1.43-fold change from WA1) against the collection of SARS-CoV-2 variants (Table 1,
118 Fig. 1C). In agreement with the findings for RDV, GS-441524 was also found to be significantly
119 ($p \leq 0.0001$) more potent against Omicron than WA1 at 72 hpi, with EC₅₀ values of 3330 ± 1400
120 compared to 6240 ± 1300 nM for WA1.

121 *Nsp12 sequence changes in SARS-CoV-2 variants*

122 To assess the genetic variation of Nsp12 in the 11 current or previously classified VOC/VOIs
123 (Omicron, Delta, Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Epsilon, Zeta, Iota, Kappa, Lambda, and Mu), a total of
124 5,842,948 SARS-CoV-2 variant sequences from the GISAID (Global Initiative on Sharing Avian
125 Influenza Data) database were evaluated. The highest proportion of analyzed sequences were
126 Delta variants (4,059,836; 69.5%), followed by Alpha variants (1,158,351; 19.8%) and Omicron
127 variants (392,056; 6.7%); the other 8 variants made up the remaining 4.0% (Supplemental Table
128 2). We further assessed the genetic variation in spike in comparison to Nsp12 across the variants.

129 The number of amino acid substitutions from WA1 viral isolate sequence in Nsp12 and spike
130 was calculated for each of the 11 variants. Overall, 1 to 6 amino acid substitutions were observed
131 across the different variants, with a frequency of $\geq 1\%$ of sequences over the 932 amino acid
132 positions in Nsp12 compared with a range of 7 to 45 substitutions over the 1274 amino acid
133 positions in spike (Supplemental Fig. 1, Supplemental Tables 2 and 3). The most prevalent
134 Nsp12 substitution relative to the consensus ancestral sequence, P323L, was observed with
135 frequency >99% and a lineage defining Nsp12 substitution for all 11 analyzed variants. The
136 Delta variant contained one additional lineage-defining amino acid change in Nsp12, G671S,

137 which was observed in 97.8% of Delta isolates. No other substitutions were found with a
138 frequency of $\geq 50\%$ in any of the variants.

139 Given the recent emergence and high prevalence of the Omicron variant, amino acid
140 substitutions in Nsp12 of Omicron variant were further investigated with a more sensitive
141 frequency cutoff of 0.5%. Among the 6 substitutions (Table 2), P323L and F694Y were the most
142 frequently observed, in 99.5% and 2.0% of Omicron sequences, respectively, while all 4
143 remaining substitutions had frequencies of $\leq 1\%$. In the initial Omicron wave (December 13,
144 2021), F694Y was highly prevalent (41.1% of worldwide isolates and 94.1% of the UK isolates)
145 in sequences submitted to the GISAID database; however, as the Omicron variant continued to
146 spread, the G694Y substitution rapidly declined in frequency with only 2.00% of deposited
147 sequences harboring the substitution as of January 18, 2022 (Supplemental Fig. 2). Interestingly,
148 F694Y is not unique to the Omicron variant as it was also found in 4.9% of Delta variant
149 sequences (Supplemental Table 2).

150 Most notably, Nsp12 substitutions previously identified to reduce *in vitro* susceptibility to RDV
151 (19, 35), F480L, V557L, and E802D, were rarely found in our evaluation. Of the 5,842,948
152 variant sequences evaluated, F480L, V557L, and E802D were only observed in 16 (0.0002%),
153 24 (0.0004%), and 102 (0.002%) sequences, respectively. Further, only 49 (0.0008%) variant
154 sequences had any alteration at the residue involved in RDV induced delayed chain termination,
155 S861 (14).

156 ***Structural analysis of Nsp12 substitutions observed in variants***

157 RDV acts by incorporating its triphosphate metabolite (RDV-TP) into the viral RNA and
158 subsequently causing clashes with the Nsp12 protein at multiple location, compromising further
159 synthesis (14, 15). Analogs of RDV that produce the same RDV-TP active metabolite, such as

160 GS-441524, exert their inhibitory activity via the same mechanism of action. At present, a
161 structure of the pre-incorporated state of RDV-TP in the RdRp active site is still unavailable. We
162 built a model, described previously (14, 15, 36), based on an existing structure of the polymerase
163 complex (Nsp12/(Nsp8)₂/Nsp7/(Nsp13)₂) with primer and template RNA (PDB: 6XEZ) (37).
164 Using this model, we assessed the potential impact of each Nsp12 amino acid substitution
165 identified in the analyzed variants on the affinity of RDV-TP for the RdRp active site.
166 As seen in Fig. 2, the two most common amino acid substitutions, P323L, seen in all variants,
167 and G671S, observed in Delta, are 28.6 Å and 24.9 Å, respectively, from the pre-incorporated
168 RDV-TP (measured from the amino acid C α to RDV-TP's C1'). Of all the low-frequency
169 substitutions identified, only F694Y, found in 2-5% of Omicron and Delta isolates, is in close
170 proximity to the RdRp active site. Measured to be 12.2 Å from the RDV-TP, the residue is not in
171 direct contact with the inhibitor but is close enough to have an indirect conformational effect.
172 However, an evaluation of its impact on RDV-TP binding affinity using a molecular mechanics
173 generalized Born surface area (MM-GBSA) approach resulted in no meaningful difference,
174 likely because of the relatively conservative change from phenylalanine to tyrosine (38).
175 Most low-frequency amino acid substitutions in Omicron and other variants occur on the surface
176 of Nsp12, away from the polymerase active site (Supplemental Figs. 3 and 4). While the
177 dynamics of incorporation and RDV-TP inhibition are complex events, this structural analysis
178 suggests little reason to expect a significant impact on the efficacy of RDV and GS-441524.

179 ***Potency against recombinant SARS-CoV-2 expressing the prevalent variant amino acid***
180 ***substitutions***

181 The Omicron clinical isolate evaluated did not contain the Nsp12 F694Y substitution found at
182 high frequency in early UK Omicron isolates (Supplemental Fig. 2). Due to the initial prevalence

183 in Omicron variants and proximity to the RdRp active site, we sought to assess RDV and GS-
184 441524 activity against recombinant Omicron (rOmicron) viruses with and without the Nsp12
185 F694Y substitution. By ELISA, the RDV EC_{50} values were 46 ± 6 nM and 34 ± 3 nM (Table 3
186 and Fig. 3) against rOmicron and rOmicron F694Y, respectively. Similarly, potency was
187 preserved for GS-441524 against both recombinant viruses, with EC_{50} values of 2600 ± 100 nM
188 (rOmicron) and 2200 ± 300 nM (rOmicronF694Y). RDV and GS-441524 were similarly potent
189 against the two recombinant Omicron viruses and an Omicron clinical isolate run in parallel,
190 with all three viruses showing increased susceptibility to both RDV and GS-441524 compared to
191 the WA1 isolate by ELISA (Table 3 and Fig. 3).

192 We next sought to evaluate the *in vitro* potency of RDV and GS-441524 against other Nsp12
193 amino acid substitutions alone or in combination that were identified at high frequency (>15%)
194 in any specific variant. Recombinant SARS-CoV-2 WA1 viruses containing a Nano luciferase
195 (Nluc) transgene and the wild-type or mutated nsp12 sequences were rescued and tested for RDV
196 and GS-441524 susceptibility. Monitoring Nluc signal from infected cells at 48 hpi, we observed
197 an RDV EC_{50} value of 80 ± 21 nM for WA1 recombinant virus, while viruses containing either
198 the P323L substitution alone or the P323L/G671S double substitution found in Delta variant had
199 RDV EC_{50} values of 71 ± 26 nM and 104 ± 20 nM, respectively, resulting in a 1.2-fold change or
200 less relative to WA1 (Table 4, Fig. 4A). Modification of nsp12 with a sequence encoding G671S
201 alone failed to rescue infectious virus after several independent attempts, a finding which
202 complements prior evidence suggesting Nsp12 P323L conveys a growth advantage (39).
203 Recombinant viruses containing either P323L, F694Y, or the P323L/F694Y double substitution
204 in a WA1 Firefly luciferase (Fluc) recombinant virus background were similarly susceptible to
205 RDV (EC_{50} values within 1.2-fold of WA1) (Table 4, Fig. 4B). GS-441524 antiviral potency was

206 also maintained against recombinant SARS-CoV-2 viruses harboring the Nsp12 P323L,
207 P323L/G671S, and P323L/F694Y substitutions, with fold changes of 0.73 to 1.83 relative to
208 WA1 (Table 4). Collectively, these data confirm that antiviral potencies of RDV and GS-441524
209 remain unchanged against viruses harboring the prevalent Nsp12 substitutions currently
210 identified in isolates of SARS-CoV-2 variants.

211

212 **3. Discussion and Conclusions**

213 Over the past 2 years of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the rapid evolution of the virus has led to
214 the emergence of multiple viral variants. Since the beginning of pandemic, WHO declared 5 of
215 these variants as VOCs that could be associated with more severe disease and/or increased rate
216 of transmission. While the SARS-CoV-2 antiviral activity of RDV has previously been well
217 characterized both *in vitro* and *in vivo* (13, 24, 26, 29-31), most studies have been conducted
218 using the ancestral WA1 isolate. Here, we sought to fully characterize the antiviral potency of
219 RDV and its parent nucleoside GS-441524 against a panel of the most significant SARS-CoV-2
220 variants including all the major VOCs. Utilizing PRA and ELISA assays in parallel, we observed
221 a general agreement in potency between assays with most RDV EC_{50} values observed near 100
222 nM, indicating N-protein levels correlated with released infectious virus. Findings from both
223 assays revealed all variants to have RDV EC_{50} values within 2.4-fold of WA1. The Iota variant
224 was the only variant with >2-fold change in potency for RDV compared with WA1 by ELISA.
225 However, the EC_{50} against Iota observed by PRA and for GS-441524 ELISA were similar to
226 WA1 indicating that the Iota variant remains susceptible to RDV and GS-441524. Importantly,
227 both Delta and Omicron variants, the two most recent strains in predominant circulation with
228 increased severity and elevated transmission, respectively, are highly susceptible to both RDV

229 and GS-441524. Interestingly, Omicron is significantly more susceptible to RDV and GS-
230 441524, though the reasons for this are not understood, as there are no substitutions in Nsp12
231 that would predict increased potency.

232 The potency observed for the GS-441524 parent nucleoside against all variants was 20-75 times
233 lower than for RDV, consistent with previous findings in A549 cells (13). As observed with
234 RDV, GS-441524 maintained potency against all clinical isolates of variants tested, with a
235 maximum fold change of 1.4 compared with WA1. Although the active triphosphate for GS-
236 441524 and RDV are identical, it was important to confirm pan-variant GS-441524 potency
237 because orally bioavailable prodrug options for delivery of GS-441524 are under exploration
238 (40, 41).

239 The sequence analysis presented here and by others (22, 42) have found the nsp12 gene,
240 encoding the RNA dependent RNA polymerase, of variants to be remarkably stable over the last
241 2 years. Only two substitutions, P323L (among all variants) and G671S (in the Delta variant)
242 have an observed prevalence >15% among sequenced variant isolates (Supplemental Table 2). In
243 contrast, multiple substitutions in the spike protein have been observed in all variants
244 (Supplemental Figure 1 and Supplemental Table 3), which can result in immune evasion and
245 reduced efficacy of monoclonal antibodies (43, 44). Structural analysis of the P323L, G671S,
246 and F694Y (a highly prevalent substitution in early Omicron isolates) found each of these
247 substitutions to be unlikely to reduce susceptibility to RDV. We confirmed RDV and GS-441524
248 retained antiviral activity against recombinant viruses containing each of these substitutions
249 individually or in combinations. The findings were consistent with antiviral assessments
250 performed in clinically isolated variants containing these Nsp12 substitutions, in which RDV and

251 GS-441524 have similar potencies to WA1. Therefore, future variants containing P323L, G671S,
252 F694Y, or their combinations are likely to remain susceptible to RDV and GS-441524.

253 Nsp12 mutations selected through in vitro passaging that are known to confer RDV resistance in
254 coronaviruses (19, 35) are noticeably lacking from the sequence analysis of clinical samples.
255 These mutations were observed in <0.001% of sequences analyzed, indicating that despite the
256 widely prevalent use of RDV to treat COVID-19 in >10 million hospitalized patients over the
257 course of the pandemic, emergence of RDV-resistant viruses is rare (42). However, with the
258 recent expansion of RDV indication to treat COVID-19 earlier in the course of viral infection
259 through outpatient use (11, 12) or potential future use of orally bioavailable prodrugs of GS-
260 441524, a sustained surveillance for emergence of resistance will need to continue.

261 In summary, we confirmed in several assay systems that past and present SARS-CoV-2 VOCs
262 and VOIs retain *in vitro* susceptibility to both RDV and its parent nucleoside GS-441524. These
263 findings highlight that both RDV and GS-441524 exhibit pan-variant SARS-CoV-2 activity and
264 support the continued clinical use of RDV in approved patient populations.

265 **4. Materials and Methods**

266 ***Reagents***

267 Remdesivir (RDV) and GS-441524 were synthesized at Gilead Sciences, Inc. Validation of
268 chemical identities were determined by NMR and LCMS, purity >95% was assessed by HPLC
269 (7, 18). Compounds were solubilized in 100% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) at a concentration of
270 10 mM.

271 *Viruses and cells*

272 Vero-TMPRSS2 cells expressing human transmembrane serine protease 2 (hTMPRSS2) (45)
273 were purchased from JCRB cell bank (Cat # JCRB 1818), National Institutes of Biomedical
274 Innovation, Health and Nutrition. A549-ACE2 cells that stably express human angiotensin-
275 converting enzyme 2 (hACE2) were established and provided by the University of Texas
276 Medical Branch (46). A549-ACE2-TMPRSS2 (Cat # a549-hace2tpsa) were purchased from
277 InvivoGen (San Diego, CA). All cells were maintained at 37°C and 5% CO₂ in Dulbecco's
278 Minimum Essential Medium (DMEM) with GlutaMAX (Gibco cat # 10569-010) supplemented
279 with 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Hyclone Cat # SH30396.03), 100 units/mL
280 penicillin, 100 µg/mL streptomycin (Gibco Cat # 15140-122), and the appropriate selection
281 agents – 1 mg/mL Geneticin (Vero-TMPRSS2), 10 µg/mL Blasticidin (A549-ACE2), or 0.5
282 µg/mL Puromycin and 100 µg/mL Hygromycin B (A549-ACE2-TMPRSS2). All cells were
283 passaged 2-3 times per week with 0.25% Trypsin/0.02% EDTA (Gibco Cat#25200056). Cells
284 used in all experimental set-ups were between passage 5 and 30.

285 SARS-CoV-2 isolates (Supplemental Table 1) were acquired through the World Reference
286 Center for Emerging Viruses and Arboviruses at the University of Texas Medical Branch (Delta
287 and Epsilon) and BEI Resources, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID),
288 National Institutes of Health (NIH). Isolates obtained from BEI Resources were deposited by the
289 CDC (WA1 reference and Lambda), Bassam Hallis (Alpha), Alex Sigal and Tulio de Oliveira
290 (Beta), the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (Gamma), Andrew S. Pekosz (Omicron and
291 Zeta), Dr. Mehul Suthar and Dr. Benjamin Pinsky (Kappa), and Dr. David D. Ho (Iota).

292 All viruses were propagated 1-2 times in Vero-TMPRSS2 cells as follows. 1×10^7 Vero-
293 TMPRSS2 cells were seeded into a T225 flask in Vero-TMPRSS2 maintenance media and

294 incubated overnight at 37°C + 5% CO₂. The following day, the media was aspirated and replaced
295 with 25 mL of DMEM supplemented with 2% FBS (infection medium) and infected with 10 µL
296 of P0 stocks. The flasks were returned to 37°C + 5% CO₂ until only 10-20% of viable cells
297 remained (typically 36-72 hpi). The supernatant was harvested into a 50 mL Falcon tube and
298 centrifuged at 2000 × g for 5 minutes to pellet cellular debris. The clarified supernatant was then
299 transferred to a clean falcon tube and aliquoted as a working P1 stock into 100-250 µL aliquots
300 and frozen at -80°C. The titer of the P1 stock was determined by plaque formation assay (PFA).
301 If a second passage was required, the procedure above was repeated using the P1 stock to
302 inoculate.

303 ***Plaque formation assay (PFA)***

304 3×10⁵ Vero-TMPRSS2 cells/well were seeded into 12-well plates in 1 mL of maintenance media
305 and incubated overnight at 37°C and 5% CO₂. The following day, cell confluency was confirmed
306 to be >95% by visualization under a light microscope. Samples for analysis were serially diluted
307 10-fold in infection medium (DMEM + 2% FBS) up to a final dilution of 10⁻⁵ or 10⁻⁶. Spent
308 supernatant was aspirated and replaced with 100 µL of serially diluted inoculum/well, and
309 culture plates were returned to the incubator for 1 h with gentle rocking every 15 min. Following
310 incubation, 2 mL of pre-warmed overlay medium (DMEM with 2% FBS, 1X
311 penicillin/streptomycin, and 1.5% carboxymethylcellulose) was added to each well. Cells were
312 then incubated without agitation for 3 days, at which point 2 mL of crystal violet fix/stain
313 solution was added to each well. Cells were incubated at room temperature overnight.
314 Supernatants containing the crystal violet solution were discarded, and wells were washed with
315 water 2 to 4 times each until plaques were visible and washes were clear of crystal violet residue.

316 Plaques were counted manually from the most dilute wells consistently containing >5 plaque
317 forming units (PFU).

318 ***Plaque-reduction assay (PRA)***

319 5×10^4 A549-ACE2-TMPRSS2 cells were suspended into 500 μ L maintenance medium and
320 seeded into each well of a 48-well plate (Corning). Plates were incubated at 37°C with 5% CO₂
321 overnight, after which the medium was aspirated and 250 μ L of infection medium (DMEM + 2%
322 FBS) was added to each well. Serial 3-fold dilutions of RDV in DMSO were added to each well
323 using a Tecan D300e digital liquid dispenser. The DMSO concentrations were normalized to that
324 of the highest compound concentration (DMSO less than <0.1% in final solution). SARS-CoV-2
325 was diluted into infection medium to 1×10^5 PFU/mL, and 50 μ L of inoculum was added to each
326 well to result in a multiplicity of infection (MOI) = 0.1. At 48 or 72 hpi (for Omicron and 72 hpi
327 WA1 reference), the supernatant was transferred to a clean 48-well plate and the plate sealed and
328 frozen at -80°C until ready for analysis using the PFA assay described above. PFU counts for
329 each variant were normalized to the DMSO controls for each variant (DMSO average = 0%
330 inhibition). Due to the cumbersome nature of the PRA, all variants could not be read-out
331 simultaneously; therefore, fold change calculations for this assay were assessed by taking the
332 average EC₅₀ for each variant divided by the average EC₅₀ of the WA1 reference.

333 ***Nucleoprotein ELISA***

334 3×10^4 A549-ACE2-TMPRSS2 cells in 100 μ L DMEM (supplemented with 10% FBS and 1X
335 penicillin/streptomycin) were seeded into each well of a 96-well plate and incubated overnight.
336 The following day, media was aspirated and 100 μ L of DMEM containing 2% FBS was added to
337 each well. Three-fold serial dilutions of RDV or GS-441524 (in triplicate) were added to each

338 well using a HP D300e digital dispenser with a final volume of 200 μ L/well. Immediately after
339 compound addition, cells were infected with 1.5×10^3 PFU of the relevant SARS-CoV-2 variant
340 diluted in 100 μ L of DMEM supplemented with 2% FBS, resulting in a MOI = 0.05. Plates were
341 centrifuged for 1 min at $500 \times g$ and then incubated at 37°C with 5% CO₂ for 2 days (or 3 days
342 for Omicron strains and 72 hpi WA1 reference), after which media was aspirated, and cells fixed
343 with 100% methanol for 10 minutes at room temperature (RT). The methanol was removed, and
344 plates air-dried for 10 minutes at RT followed by a 1 h incubation with 100 μ L/well of blocking
345 buffer (phosphate-buffered saline [PBS] with 10% FBS, 5% non-fat dry milk, and 0.1% Tween
346 20) for 1 h at 37°C. The blocking buffer was then aspirated and 50 μ L of a 1:4000 dilution of
347 rabbit anti-SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid (N) antibody (MA536086, Invitrogen) in blocking buffer
348 was added and incubated for 2 h at 37°C. Plates were washed 4 \times with 200 μ L/well of PBS
349 containing 0.1% Tween 20 prior to addition of 50 μ L/well of horseradish peroxidase (HRP)
350 conjugated goat-anti-rabbit IgG (GtxRb-003-FHRPX, ImmunoReagents) diluted 1:4000 in
351 blocking buffer. Plates were again incubated for 1 h at 37°C and then washed 4 \times with 200 μ L
352 PBS with 0.1% Tween 20. 100 μ L TMB reagent (ENN301, Thermo Scientific) was added to
353 each well and allowed to incubate at RT until visible staining of the positive control wells,
354 usually 5-10 minutes. The reaction was stopped with addition of 100 μ L/well of TMB stop
355 solution (5150-0021 SeraCare). The absorbance was then read at 450 nm using an EnVision
356 plate reader. Fold change for variants was calculated for each experiment, comparing to the
357 relevant WA1 reference. Fold change across all experiments was then averaged to obtain final
358 reported values.

359 ***SARS-CoV-2 sequence analysis***

360 The tabulated amino acid substitutions from WA1 reference (MN985325) for a total of
361 5,842,948 SARS-Cov-2 genome sequences were obtained from GISAID EpiCov database as of
362 January 18, 2021 (<https://www.gisaid.org/>) (47). Sequences with length <29,000 nucleotides in
363 length or that contained >5% of ambiguous bases across genome were excluded from analyses.
364 The sequences were further categorized into 11 VOC/VOIs according to the PANGO lineage
365 using Pangolin software (48). The Regeneron COVID-19 Dashboard web portal
366 (<https://covid19dashboard.regeneron.com>) was used to assess the overall prevalence of mutations
367 in 7,106,062 unfiltered sequences from GISAID database on January 18, 2022. Lineage-
368 associated amino acid changes were obtained from PANGO lineage web portal ([https://cov-
lineages.org/](https://cov-
369 lineages.org/)).

370 ***Protein structure modelling and visualization***

371 The model of pre-incorporated RDV-TP in the active site of the SARS-CoV-2 polymerase
372 complex was developed from the NTP-free cryo-EM structure 6XEZ and has been described
373 elsewhere (37). The variant mutations P323L, P323L/G671S, and P323L/F694Y were introduced
374 and optimized by conducting a side chain rotamer optimization and minimization of the mutated
375 residues and surrounding residues within 5 Å using Prime. The impact of each mutation on the
376 predicted binding affinity to RDV-TP was assessed with an MM-GBSA residue scan within
377 Bioluminate.

378 ***Site-directed mutagenesis and recombinant virus rescue***

379 To produce recombinant SARS-CoV-2 virus, we utilized a SARS-CoV-2 reverse genetics system
380 previously described (24, 49) that was slightly modified by fusing plasmids F1-F3 single plasmid

381 making it a 3-plasmid reverse genetics system producing infectious virus containing either Nano
382 luciferase (Nluc) or the Firefly luciferase (Fluc) transgene. Desired substitutions in nsp12 of the
383 SARS-CoV-2 genome were added to the nsp12 containing F4 plasmid using the Quick-Change
384 PCR protocol using Platinum SuperFI II PCR master-mix (ThermoFisher Scientific cat. No.
385 12361010) following manufacturer's protocols. The primers used to engineer specific mutations
386 were SARS_CoV2_NSP12_P323L_Fw-5'-GTTCCCAC**T**TACAAGTTTTG-3' and
387 SARS_CoV2_NSP12_P323L_Rv- 5'-CAA**A**ACTTGTA**A**GTGGGAAC-3' for P323L,
388 SARS_CoV2_NSP12_F694Y_Fw-5'-GCTAATAGTGTT**T**ATAACATTTGTC-3' and
389 SARS_CoV2_NSP12_F694Y_Rv-5'-GACAAATGTTA**T**AAACACTATTAGC-3' for F694Y,
390 and SARS_CoV2_NSP12_G671S_Fw-5'-GTCATGTGTGGC**A**GTTCACTATATG-3' and
391 SARS_CoV2_NSP12_G671S_Rv-5'-CATATAGTGA**A**CTGCCACACATGAC-3' for G671S.
392 Substitutions (red highlights in primers) were sequenced confirmed, and then validated plasmids
393 were digested with either BsaI or Esp3I. Cut plasmids were then ligated together using T4 DNA
394 ligase, and the ligated product was *in vitro* transcribed into RNA. The RNA products were then
395 electroporated into Vero-TMPRSS2 cells and monitored until extensive cytopathic effect was
396 observed and P0 virus harvested. P0 virus stocks were titered and passaged to P1 as described
397 above for propagation of clinical isolates. Virus used for experiments was either P1 (Fluc) or P2
398 (Nluc).

399 ***Construction of a recombinant Omicron SARS-CoV-2***

400 Recombinant Omicron SARS-CoV-2 was constructed by engineering the complete mutations
401 from Omicron variant (GISAID EPI_ISL_6640916) into an infectious cDNA clone of clinical
402 isolate USA-WA1/2020 (50). All mutations were introduced into the infectious cDNA clone of
403 USA-WA1/2020 using PCR-based mutagenesis as previously described (51). An additional

404 recombinant Omicron SARS-CoV-2 was generated bearing the F694Y substitution in NSP12 by
405 the methods detailed above. rOmicron viruses were analyzed using the N-protein ELISA
406 following the protocol used for clinical isolates.

407 *Antiviral activity assessment from recombinant luciferase containing viruses*

408 For Nluc readouts, 1.2×10^4 A549-hACE2 cells per well were suspended in 50 μ L infection
409 medium and seeded into a white clear-bottom 96-well plate (Corning) and incubated overnight at
410 37°C with 5% CO₂. On the following day, compounds were added directly to cultures as 3-fold
411 serial dilutions with a Tecan D300e digital liquid dispenser, with DMSO volumes normalized to
412 that of the highest compound concentration (final DMSO concentration <0.1%). SARS-CoV-2-
413 Nluc viruses were diluted to MOI = 0.05 and aliquoted 50 μ L/well. At 48 hpi, 75 μ L Nluc
414 substrate solution (Promega) was added to each well. Luciferase signals were measured using an
415 Envision microplate reader (Perkin Elmer).

416 For Firefly luciferase readouts, the assay set-up was the same as the Nluc assay except cells were
417 infected with SARS-CoV-2-Fluc viruses at an MOI = 1.0 and at 48 hpi, 100 μ L One-Glo
418 luciferase substrate solution (Promega) was added to each well prior to reading the signal on the
419 Envision plate reader (Perkin Elmer).

420 *EC₅₀ determinations*

421 The half-maximal effective concentration (EC₅₀) is defined as the compound concentration at
422 which there was a 50% reduction in plaque formation (PRA), luciferase signal, or N-protein
423 expression (ELISA) relative to infected cells with DMSO alone (0% inhibition) and uninfected
424 control (100% inhibition). EC₅₀ values were determined using GraphPad Prism 8.1.2 using non-

425 linear regression curve fits. Constraints were used when required to ensure the bottom or top of
426 the fit curves were close to 0 and 100, respectively.

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- 655

656 **Tables and Figures**

657 **Table 1. Antiviral activity of RDV and GS-441524 against SARS-CoV-2 variants**

Variant	RDV Plaque Reduction Assay (n = 2-4)		RDV Nucleoprotein ELISA (n = 4-16)		GS-441524 Nucleoprotein ELISA (n = 4-12)	
	Mean EC ₅₀ ± SD ^a (nM)	Fold Change from WA1 ^b	Mean EC ₅₀ ± SD ^a (nM)	Mean Fold Change ± SD from WA1 ^c	Mean EC ₅₀ ± SD ^a (nM)	Mean Fold Change ± SD from WA1 ^c
WA1	98 ± 48	1.0	110 ± 42	1.0	5600 ± 4100	1.0
Alpha	94 ± 58	0.96	192 ± 51	1.58 ± 0.48	8790 ± 6600	1.22 ± 0.60
Beta	61 ± 9	0.63	141 ± 45	1.19 ± 0.47	7570 ± 4400	1.13 ± 0.56
Gamma	154 ± 226	1.6	97 ± 39	0.82 ± 0.42	5060 ± 2300	0.79 ± 0.37
Delta	31 ± 13	0.31	70 ± 40	0.59 ± 0.20	3260 ± 1300	0.62 ± 0.24
Epsilon	65 ± 32	0.66	210 ± 212	1.94 ± 1.18	4050 ± 1700	1.27 ± 0.53
Zeta	87 ± 44	0.89	151 ± 102	1.17 ± 0.40	3840 ± 1400	0.93 ± 0.11
Iota	59 ± 28	0.60	258 ± 195 ^d	2.33 ± 0.74	4710 ± 1600	1.43 ± 0.28
Kappa	15 ± 6	0.15	77 ± 50	0.63 ± 0.19	2100 ± 930	0.53 ± 0.07
Lambda	94 ± 55	0.96	175 ± 138	1.37 ± 0.48	3890 ± 1600	0.97 ± 0.10
WA1 (72 hpi)	-	-	97 ± 15	1.0	6240 ± 1300	1.0
Omicron (72 hpi)	-	-	44 ± 16 ^e	0.45 ± 0.13	3330 ± 1400 ^e	0.57 ± 0.29

658 ^a Values are the mean ± standard deviation (SD) of the results of independent experiments (number of replicate
659 experiments shown).

660 ^b Fold change calculated from the mean values = [Variant mean EC₅₀]/[WA1 mean EC₅₀]

661 ^c A fold change was calculated for each experiment and a mean fold change ± SD was calculated with these values.

662 ^d Statistically significant increase (p=0.015) in EC₅₀ value of Iota in the RDV ELISA compared to WA1 reference at
663 48 hpi by one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons. All other results for variants at 48
664 hpi are not statistically different from matching WA1 reference.

665 ^e Statistically significant decrease (p≤0.0001) in EC₅₀ value of Omicron RDV and GS-441524 ELISA compared to
666 WA1 reference at 72 hpi by one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons.

667 **Table 2. Amino acid substitutions in Nsp12 Omicron sequences with frequency $\geq 0.5\%$**

Nsp12 Changes from WA1 reference	Frequency in Omicron Sequences, % (N)	Frequency in All Available Sequences, % (N)^a
P323L	99.5 (390,020)	98.4 (6,850,250)
F694Y	2.0 (7,822)	3.0 (205,649)
D153Y	0.97 (3,820)	0.10 (6,618)
Q875R	0.86 (3,352)	0.06 (4,286)
G44S	0.59 (2,319)	0.03 (2,336)
I223V	0.54 (2,109)	0.03 (2,333)

668 ^a A total of N = 7,106,062 sequences from GISAID on January 18, 2022

669 **Table 3. RDV and GS-441524 potencies against recombinant Omicron SARS-CoV-2**
670 **viruses**

Virus	Mean EC ₅₀ ± SD ^a (nM)	
	RDV (n=2-3)	GS-441524 (n=2-3)
WA1	100 ± 15	5200 ± 700
Omicron	54 ± 21 ^b	4000 ± 1500 ^b
rOmicron	46 ± 6 ^b	2600 ± 100 ^b
rOmicron (F694Y)	34 ± 3 ^b	2200 ± 300 ^b

671 ^a Values are the mean ± standard deviation (SD) of the results of independent experiments (number of replicate
672 experiments shown).

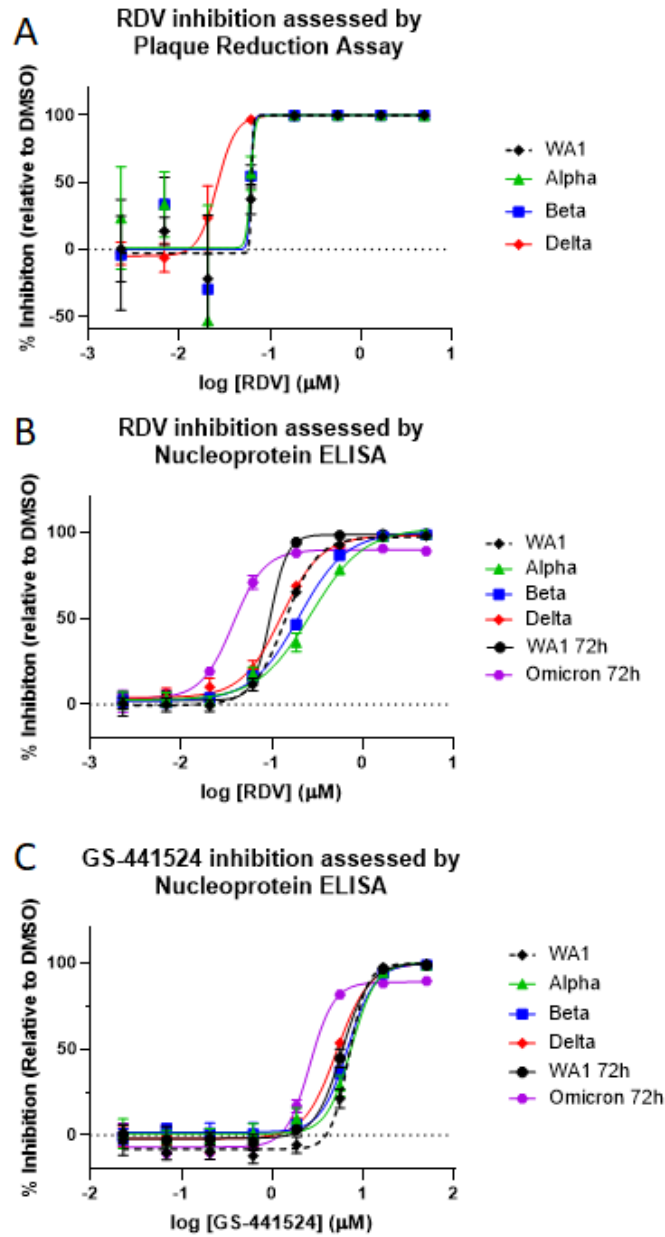
673 ^b Statistically significant decrease ($p \leq 0.005$) in EC₅₀ value of Omicron and rOmicron viruses from the WA1
674 reference at 72 hpi by one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons. No statistical
675 differences were observed between any of the Omicron and rOmicron viruses.

676 **Table 4. RDV and GS-441524 potencies against recombinant SARS-CoV-2 harboring**
 677 **prevalent Nsp12 substitutions**

Recombinant Virus	RDV (n=2-6)		GS-441524 (n=2)	
	Mean EC₅₀ ± SD^a (nM)	Mean Fold Change ± SD from WA1^b	Mean EC₅₀ ± SD^a (nM)	Mean Fold Change ± SD from WA1^b
WA1-Nluc	80 ± 21	1.0	1880 ± 40	1.0
P323L-Nluc	71 ± 26	0.95 ± 0.42	1580 ± 370	0.84 ± 0.21
P323L/G671S-Nluc	104 ± 20	1.22 ± 0.31	3450 ± 1400	1.83 ± 0.71
WA1-FLuc	99 ± 2	1.0	2230 ± 380	1.0
F694Y-FLuc	112 ± 2	1.14 ± .01	2250 ± 380	1.04 ± 0.34
P323L/F694Y-FLuc	63 ± 4	0.63 ± 0.03	1620 ± 180	0.73 ± 0.04

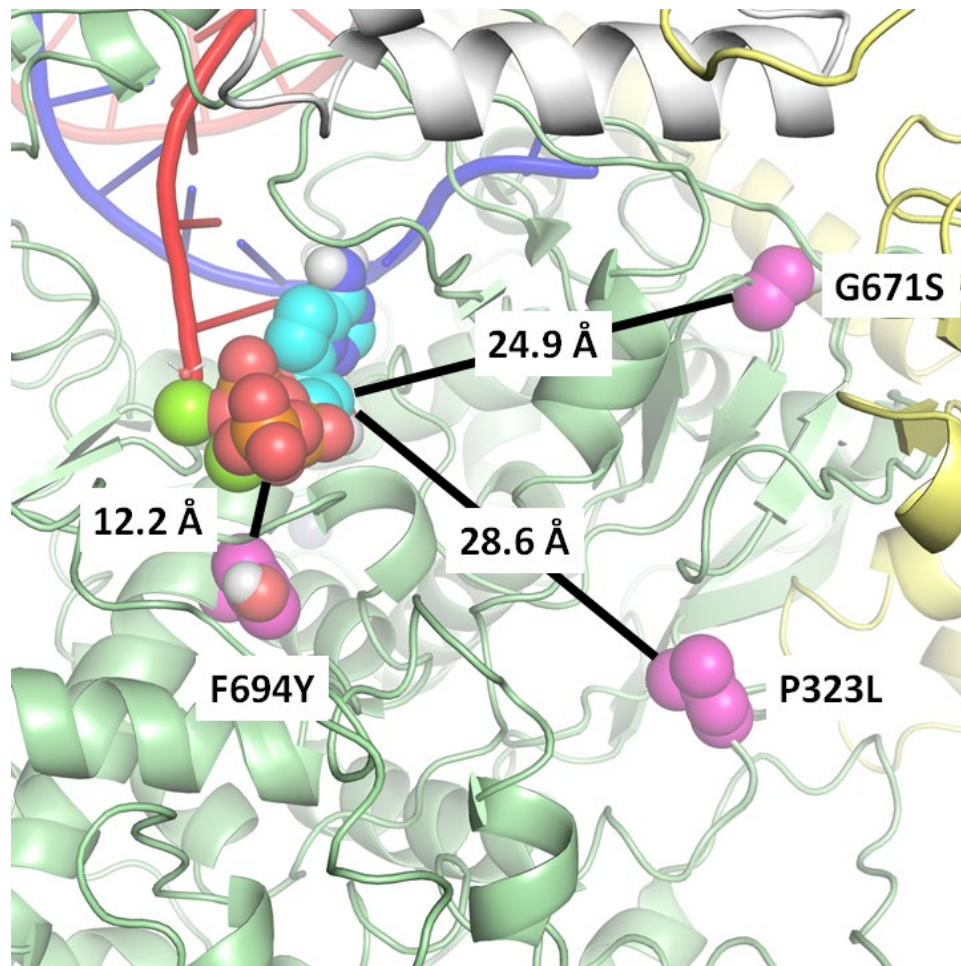
678 ^a Values are the mean ± standard deviation (SD) of the results of independent experiments (number of replicate
 679 experiments shown).

680 ^b A fold change was calculated for each experiment and a mean fold change ± SD was calculated with these values
 681 (number of independent replicate experiments shown).

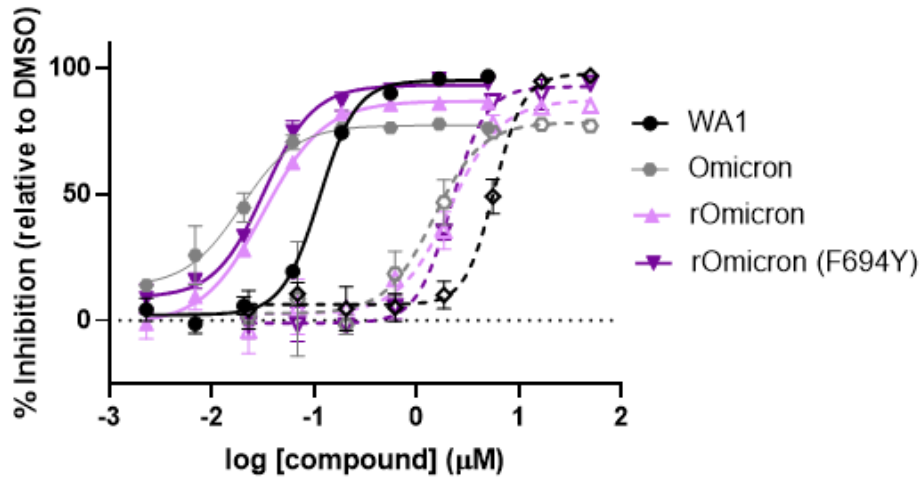


683 **Figure 1. Representative dose-response curves of remdesivir and GS-441524 against SARS-CoV-2**
684 **VOCs.** Dose-response curves of RDV (A-B) and GS-441524 (C) activity against the WA1 reference and
685 SARS-CoV-2 VOCs in A549-ACE2-TMPRSS2 cells by plaque reduction assay (PRA) (A) or ELISA (B-
686 C). In the PRA, infected cell supernatants were harvested at 48 hpi and analyzed by plaque assay on
687 Vero-TMPRSS2 cells. For ELISA, infected cells were fixed at ~48 hpi (WA1, Alpha, Beta, Delta) or
688 ~72 hpi (WA1 and Omicron) and processed. Data shown are means and standard deviations from

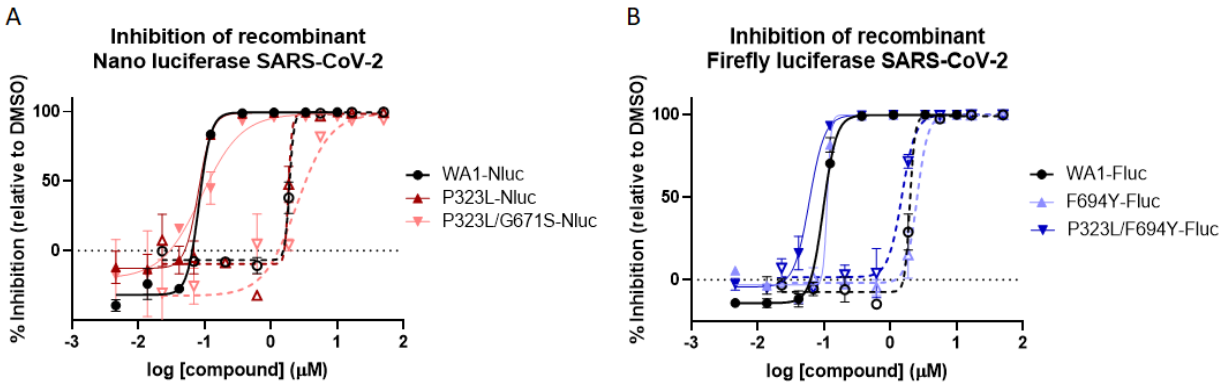
689 representative experiments that were performed in biological quadruplicate (PRA) or triplicate (ELISA) at
690 each compound concentration. Average calculated EC₅₀ values and fold change from WA1 reference can
691 be found in Table 1.



693 **Figure 2. Structural model of Nsp12 highlighting key amino acid substitutions in relation to**
694 **the active site.** Pre-incorporated remdesivir triphosphate (RDV-TP) was modeled into the cryo-
695 EM structure of the polymerase complex (6XEZ) (37). The prevalent amino acid substitution
696 P323L, seen in all variants, is measured to be 28.6 Å from RDV-TP (P323 C α - RDV-TP C1'),
697 whereas G671S, seen in the Delta variant, is 24.9 Å. Of all the amino acid substitutions reported
698 here, F694Y, seen at low frequency in Delta and Omicron, comes closest to the active site, at
699 12.2 Å. A computational analysis suggests that the substitutions have no meaningful impact on
700 RDV-TP binding affinity.



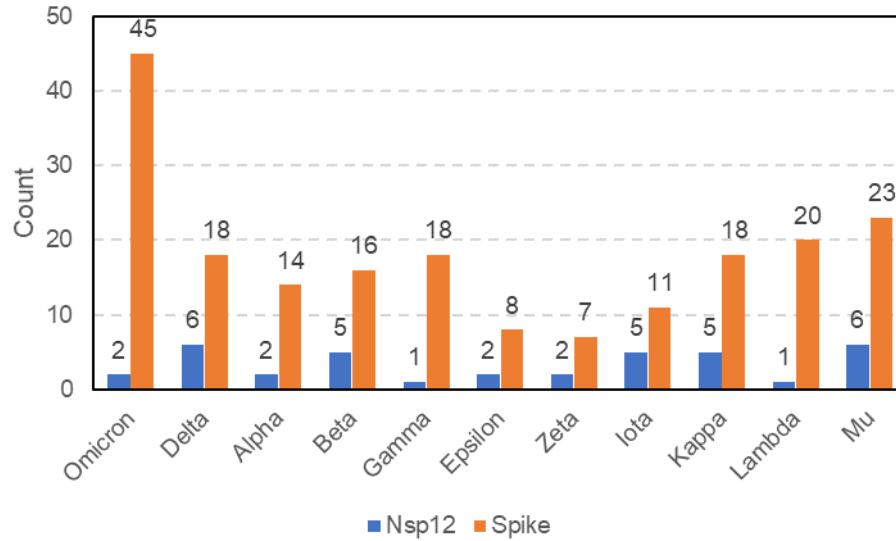
702 **Figure 3. Recombinant Omicron viruses retain susceptibility to RDV and GS-441524.** ELISA dose-
703 response curves of RDV (solid lines and filled points) and GS-441524 (dashed lines and outlined points)
704 activity against recombinant Omicron viruses with (dark purple) or without (light purple) the F694Y
705 substitution compared with WA1 (black), and Omicron (grey) clinical isolates run in parallel. Data shown
706 are means and standard deviations from a representative 72-hpi nucleoprotein ELISA experiment that was
707 performed with biological triplicates at each compound concentration. Average calculated EC_{50} values are
708 in Table 3.



710 **Figure 4. Prevalent Nsp12 substitutions in Delta and Omicron retain susceptibility to RDV and GS-**
711 **441524.** Dose response curves of RDV (solid lines and filled points) and GS-441524 (dashed lines and
712 outlined points) activity against recombinant viruses with/without prevalent Nsp12 substitutions
713 containing a Nano luciferase (Nluc) (A) or Firefly luciferase (Fluc) (B) transgene. Data shown are means
714 and standard deviations from a representative experiment that was performed in biological duplicates at
715 each compound concentration. Average calculated EC_{50} values and fold change from recombinant WA1
716 references are in Table 4.

717 **Supplemental Materials**

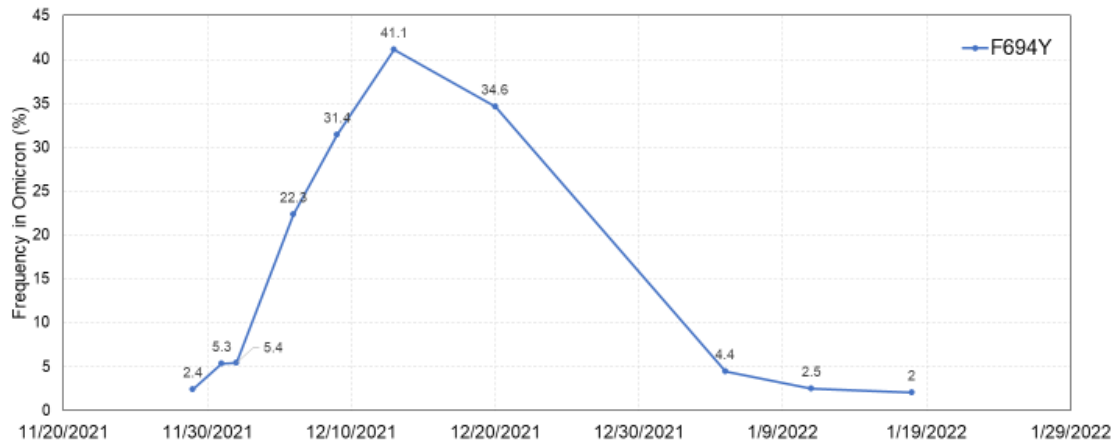
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720 **Supplemental Figure 1. Amino acid substitutions in Nsp12 and Spike.** The total number of
721 amino acid substitutions in Nsp12 compared to Spike from each variant of concern or variant of
722 interest. Actual substitutions for each variant are found in Supplemental Tables 1 (Nsp12) and 2
723 (Spike).

724

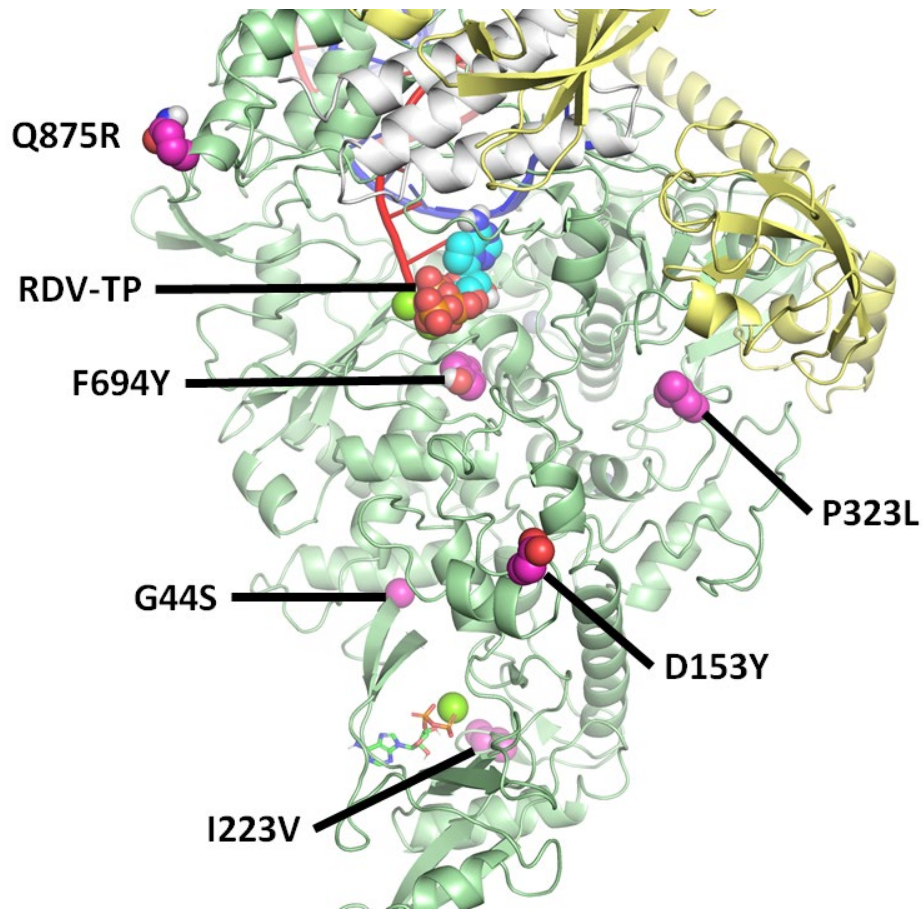
725



Date	11/29/21	12/1/21	12/2/21	12/6/21	12/9/21	12/13/21	12/20/21	1/5/22	1/11/22	1/18/22
% in Omicron isolates (Total isolates N)	2.4 (165)	5.3 (279)	5.4 (298)	22.3 (542)	31.4 (1,127)	41.1 (2,840)	34.6 (13,659)	4.4 (116,830)	2.5 (248,913)	2.0 (392,056)
% UK isolates with 694Y (Total UK Isolates N)	100.0 (4)	100.0 (15)	100.0 (15)	95.2 (126)	93.7 (378)	94.1 (1,240)	45.5 (8,766)	6.2 (66,280)	4.1 (118,013)	2.9 (172,297)

727 **Supplemental Figure 2. F694Y frequency in Omicron variant over time.** Omicron sequences
 728 were obtained from GISAID at ten different timepoints. Frequency of F694Y in all omicron
 729 sequences at each timepoint are plotted. The frequency among UK isolates is shown in the data
 730 table below the plot.

731



732

733 **Supplemental Figure 3. Location of Omicron Nsp12 amino acid substitutions with**

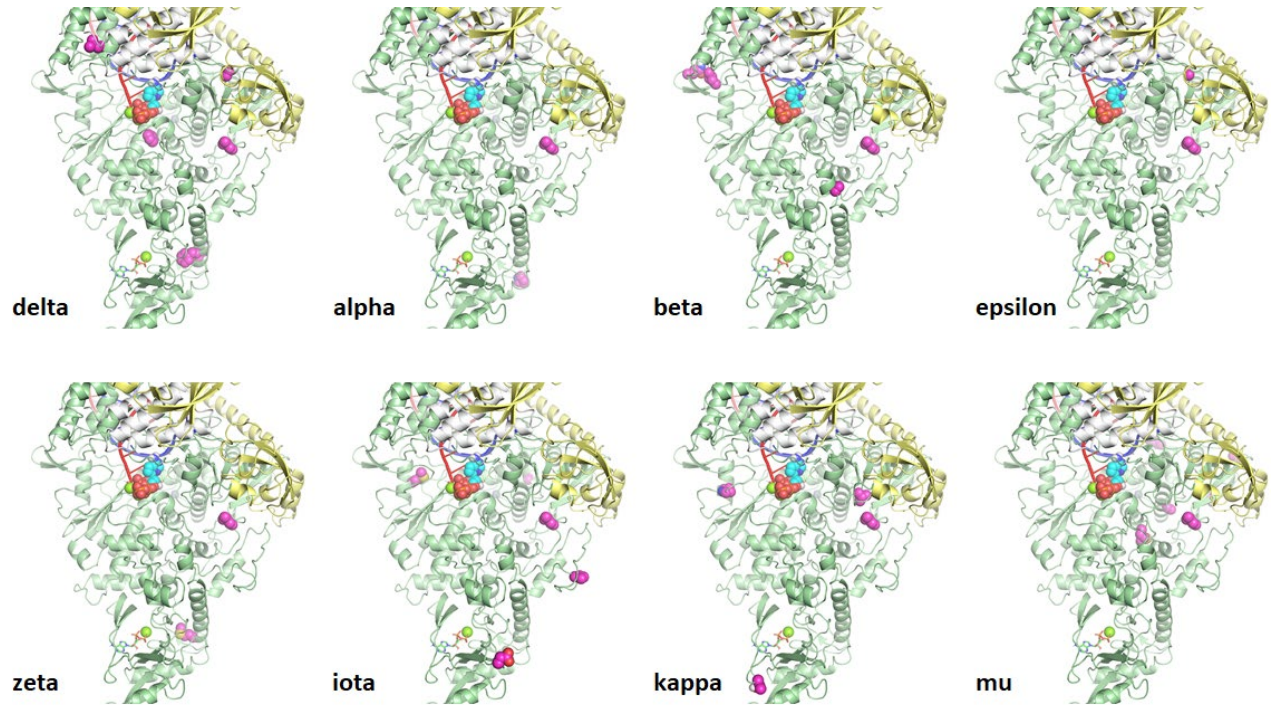
734 **frequency >0.5%.** Amino acid substitutions identified in Table 2 are mapped onto the model of

735 the polymerase complex with pre-incorporated RDV-TP. All substitutions occur on the surface

736 of Nsp12, away from the active site, apart from F694Y. Nsp12 is shown in green, Nsp8 in

737 yellow, Nsp7 in white, template RNA in blue, and primer RNA in red.

738



747 **Supplemental Table 1. SARS-CoV-2 variant clinical isolates and sources**

Variant	Isolate	Lineage	Source (Cat #)	GISAID ID	Depositor
	hCoV-19/USA-WA1/2020 (WA1)	A	BEI (NR-52281)	EPI_ISL_404895	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Alpha	hCoV-19/England/204820464/2020	B.1.1.7	BEI (NR-54000)	EPI_ISL_683466	Bassam Hallis
Beta	hCoV-19/South Africa/KRISP-K005325/2020	B.1.351	BEI (NR-54009)	EPI_ISL_678615	Alex Sigal and Tulio de Oliveira
Gamma	hCoV-19/Japan/TY7-503/2021	P.1	BEI (NR-54982)	EPI_ISL_877769	National Institutes of Infectious Disease
Delta	GNL-1205	B.1.617.2	Source: UTMB		
Epsilon	GNL-354	B.1.429	Source: UTMB		
Zeta	hCoV-19/USA/CA/VRLC012/2021	P.2	BEI (NR-55439)	EPI_ISL_1364506	Andrew S. Pekosz
Iota	hCoV-19/USA/NY-NP-DOH1/2021	B.1.526	BEI (NR-55359)	EPI_ISL_1080761	David D. Ho (Columbia University)
Kappa	hCoV-19/USA/CA-Stanford-15_S02/2021	B.1.617.1	BEI (NR-55486)	EPI_ISL_1675223	Dr Mehul Suthar and Dr. Benjamin Pinsky
Lambda	hCoV-19/Peru/un-CDC-2-4069945/2021	C.37	BEI (NR-55654)	EPI_ISL_1591097	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Omicron	hCoV-19/USA/MD-HP20874/2021	B.1.1.529	BEI (NR-56461)	EPI_ISL_7160424	Andrew S. Pekosz

748

749 **Supplemental Table 2. Amino acid substitutions of Nsp12 in VOC/VOI observed at**
 750 **frequency $\geq 1\%$**

SARS-CoV-2 Variant	SARS-CoV-2 Variant Sequences Analyzed (N, % of Total Sequences)	Nsp12 Substitution	Frequency of Substitution, % (N)
Omicron	392,056 (6.7%)	P323L	99.5 (390,020)
		F694Y	2.0 (7,822)
Delta	4,059,836 (69.5%)	P323L	99.4 (4,034,234)
		G671S	97.8 (3,968,940)
		L838I	6.8 (277,419)
		F192V	5.8 (235,631)
		F694Y	4.9 (197,489)
		R197Q	1.2 (47,122)
Alpha	1,158,351 (19.8%)	P323L	99.3 (1,149,857)
		P227L	14.2 (164,221)
Beta	35,180 (0.60%)	P323L	91.7 (37,661)
		L829F	9.0 (3,712)
		P323H	7.5 (3,075)
		Q822H	5.4 (2,198)
		A176T	2.3 (940)
Gamma	120,614 (2.1%)	P323L	99.3 (119,734)
Epsilon	44,549 (0.76%)	P323L	94.9 (42,274)
		G671V	2.1 (937)
Zeta	1,834 (0.03%)	P323L	98.2 (1,801)
		M196L	1.9 (34)
Iota	20,923 (0.36%)	P323L	99.5 (20,821)
		M601I	2.3 (485)
		V257A	2.1 (438)
		D62G	1.2 (244)
		A529V	1.2 (241)
Kappa	5,498 (0.09%)	P323L	99.5 (5,472)
		V675I	7.8 (431)
		K478N	7.1 (388)
		T26I	4.0(218)
		P809R	1.6 (88)
Lambda	6,219 (0.11%)	P323L	99.8 (6,209)
Mu	7,888 (0.14%)	P323L	98.5 (7,771)
		Y521C	21.8 (1,722)
		M629I	9.6 (756)
		T344I	2.3 (181)
		A656S	1.6 (124)
		S364F	1.4 (109)

751

752 **Supplemental Table 3. Amino acid substitutions of Spike in VOC/VOI observed at**
 753 **frequency $\geq 1\%$**

SARS-CoV-2 Variant	SARS-CoV-2 Variant Sequences Analyzed, N (% of Total Sequences)	Spike Substitutions	Frequency of Substitution, % (N)
Omicron	392,056 (6.7)	D614G	99.6 (390,638)
		H655Y	99.5 (389,923)
		N679K	99.4 (389,751)
		P681H	99.4 (389,598)
		N969K	98.3 (385,175)
		Q954H	98.0 (384,342)
		T547K	97.8 (383,385)
		D796Y	97.1 (380,607)
		A67V	96.9 (379,804)
		L981F	96.6 (378,693)
		N856K	96.5 (378,369)
		T95I	96.0 (376,297)
		HV69_70.del	95.1 (372,722)
		G142D	95 (372,462)
		YVY144_145.del	93.6 (366,879)
		G339D	92.2 (361,471)
		Q493R	88.3 (346,211)
		T478K	88.0 (345,149)
		N501Y	87.7 (343,910)
		S477N	87.7 (343,796)
		E484A	87.5 (343,201)
		Q498R	87.4 (342,647)
		Y505H	87.3 (342,159)
		G496S	86.0 (337,306)
		S375F	85.3 (334,245)
		S373P	85.2 (334,038)
		N211del	84.5 (331,246)
		L212I	84.5 (331,183)
		S371L	83.3 (326,673)
		ins214EPE	79.7 (312,289)
		N764K	73.7 (288,937)
		N440K	41.8 (163,741)
		G446S	41.5 (162,582)
K417N	38.6 (151,376)		
R346K	23.6 (92,580)		
A701V	13.9 (54,486)		
I1081V	4.1 (15,944)		
S371F	1.6 (6,166)		

		T19I	1.6 (6,106)
		D405N	1.6 (6,076)
		T376A	1.5 (6,044)
		V213G	1.5 (6,004)
		R408S	1.5 (5,968)
		A27S	1.4 (5,305)
		PPL24_26.del	1.4 (5,282)
Delta	4,059,836 (69.5)	D614G	99.7 (4,046,614)
		P681R	99.5 (4,038,886)
		T19R	98.5 (3,998,522)
		T478K	97.4 (3,955,352)
		L452R	97.2 (3,944,329)
		D950N	95.5 (3,876,829)
		FR157_158.del	91.9 (3,728,796)
		R158del	91.6 (3,718,449)
		G142D	65.5 (2,660,026)
		T95I	38.5 (1,563,622)
		A222V	10.2 (412,176)
		Y145H	3.4 (137,276)
		V1264L	2.5 (102,597)
		S112L	1.8 (71,539)
		L5F	1.4 (57,319)
		V1104L	1.4 (56,592)
		D950B	1.2 (50,256)
		Q613H	1.2 (49,816)
Alpha	1,158,351 (19.8)	D614G	99.6 (1,153,400)
		A570D	99.5 (1,152,134)
		P681H	99.3 (1,149,903)
		T716I	99.0 (1,146,565)
		S982A	98.8 (1,143,902)
		D1118H	98.7 (1,143,499)
		N501Y	97.8 (1,132,631)
		HV69_70.del	94.8 (1,098,478)
		Y144del	93.9 (1,087,059)
		K1191N	3.4 (39,741)
		L5F	3.4 (39,474)
		S98F	1.8 (20,357)
		W152R	1.5 (17,596)
		D138H	1.1 (12,137)
Beta	35,180 (0.60)	D614G	99.5 (35,003)
		A701V	99.1 (34,869)
		D80A	93.9 (33,028)
		K417N	92.6 (32,585)

		D215G	92.5 (32,557)
		N501Y	89.9 (31,628)
		E484K	89.4 (31,436)
		LAL242-244del	83.5 (29,361)
		L18F	44.1 (15,521)
		A27S	10.8 (3,786)
		T19I	2.4 (850)
		P384L	1.8 (644)
		L241del	1.7 (586)
		A899S	1.6 (575)
		L5F	1.6 (558)
		A67V	1.1 (399)
Gamma	120,614 (2.1)	D614G	99.5 (119,958)
		H655Y	98.5 (118,832)
		V1176F	97.0 (116,930)
		T1027I	96.9 (116,868)
		L18F	95.9 (115,714)
		P26S	95.7 (115,423)
		T20N	95.4 (115,087)
		K417T	95.2 (114,812)
		N501Y	95.1 (114,694)
		E484K	94.8 (114,366)
		D138Y	93.7 (112,995)
		R190S	92.9 (112,060)
		P681H	5.0 (6,063)
		A688V	2.6 (3,160)
		N679K	1.6 (1,884)
		S1252F	1.4 (1,660)
		Q675H	1.1 (1,342)
		H49Y	1.0 (1,254)
Epsilon	44,549 (0.76)	D614G	99.8 (44,472)
		L452R	97.4 (43,409)
		W152C	95.0 (42,311)
		S13I	84.0 (37,439)
		W258L	8.7 (3,871)
		P26S	5.7 (2,517)
		L5F	1.8 (819)
		S1252F	1.5 (678)
Zeta	1,834 (0.03)	D614G	100.0 (1,833)
		V1176F	97.7 (1,791)
		E484K	94.7 (1,737)
		F565L	5.8 (106)
		L5F	2.4 (43)

		T859I	1.0 (19)
		A626S	1.0 (19)
Iota	20,923 (0.36)	D614G	99.7 (20,863)
		T95I	98.4 (20,582)
		D253G	97.8 (20,471)
		L5F	95.9 (20,073)
		A701V	63.6 (13,313)
		E484K	53.3 (11,152)
		S477N	39.7 (8,314)
		Q957R	31.4 (6,570)
		L18F	3.5 (733)
		D1260N	3.1 (657)
		A845S	1.8 (375)
Kappa	5,498 (0.09)	D614G	99.8 (5,488)
		P681R	99.5 (5,470)
		E484Q	95.8 (5,266)
		L452R	95.7 (5,263)
		Q1071H	72.3 (3,973)
		E154K	67.7 (3,721)
		T95I	44.2 (2,429)
		G142D	43.4 (2,387)
		H1101D	32.9 (1,807)
		V382L	8.3 (455)
		D1153Y	8.1 (444)
		Q218H	4 (221)
		V3G	2.1 (113)
		H1101Y	1.6 (87)
		Y144del	1.5 (81)
		V1264L	1.3 (70)
		E1072K	1 (55)
		K1073R	1 (55)
Lambda	6,219 (0.11)	D614G	99.9 (6,213)
		T859N	99.1 (6,160)
		L452Q	98.2 (6,105)
		F490S	97.5 (6,063)
		G75V	94.4 (5,873)
		T76I	94.4 (5,871)
		D253N	78.4 (4,878)
		RSYLTPG.246_252.del	78.2 (4,863)
		Q675H	8.6 (534)
		I714V	4.6 (283)
		HV69_70del	3.5 (216)
		T572I	2.8 (173)

		L5F	2.2 (138)
		T63I	2.1 (130)
		G72E	1.5 (93)
		Q677H	1.5 (91)
		R21I	1.4 (88)
		A262S	1.4 (84)
		DS.253_254del	1.1 (66)
		T20I	1 (63)
Mu	7,888 (0.14)	D614G	99.8 (7,875)
		P681H	99.6 (7,855)
		R346K	99.2 (7,824)
		T95I	96.2 (7,590)
		N501Y	96.2 (7,589)
		E484K	95.8 (7,553)
		D950N	92.9 (7,324)
		Y145N	84 (6,627)
		ins143T	76.4 (6,026)
		Y144S	68.3 (5,389)
		E583D	5.3 (420)
		Y449N	5.3 (417)
		K417N	5.3 (415)
		D950B	4.8 (379)
		Y144T	4.8 (375)
		M1229I	3.4 (270)
		S939F	2.9 (230)
		ins144S	2.5 (201)
		Y144del	2.4 (193)
		Y144N	2.1 (165)
		T572I	1.9 (153)
		M1237I	1.7 (133)
		L5F	1.5 (121)

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