

1
2 **Potently neutralizing human antibodies that block SARS-CoV-2 receptor binding and protect**
3 **animals**

4
5 **AUTHORS:** Seth J. Zost^{1*}, Pavlo Gilchuk^{1*}, James Brett Case³, Elad Binshtein¹, Rita E. Chen^{2,3},
6 Joseph X. Reidy¹, Andrew Trivette¹, Rachel S. Nargi¹, Rachel E. Sutton¹, Naveenchandra
7 Suryadevara¹, Lauren E. Williamson⁴, Elaine C. Chen⁴, Taylor Jones¹, Samuel Day¹, Luke
8 Myers¹, Ahmed O. Hassan³, Natasha M. Kafai^{2,3}, Emma S. Winkler^{2,3}, Julie M. Fox³, James J.
9 Steinhardt⁶, Kuishu Ren⁷, Yueh-Ming Loo⁷, Nicole L. Kallewaard⁷, David R. Martinez⁵,
10 Alexandra Schäfer⁵, Lisa E. Gralinski⁵, Ralph S. Baric⁵, Larissa B. Thackray³, Michael S.
11 Diamond^{2,3,8,9}, Robert H. Carnahan^{1,10**}, James E. Crowe, Jr.^{1,4,10**}

12
13 **Affiliations:**

14 ¹Vanderbilt Vaccine Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, 37232, USA

15 ²Department of Pathology & Immunology, Washington University School of Medicine, St.
16 Louis, MO, 63110, USA

17 ³Department of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, 63110, MO, USA

18 ⁴Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center,
19 Nashville, TN, 37232, USA

20 ⁵Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, 27599,
21 USA

22 ⁶Antibody Discovery and Protein Engineering, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, AstraZeneca,
23 Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20878, USA

24 ⁷Microbial Sciences, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, AstraZeneca, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20878,
25 USA

26 ⁸Department of Molecular Microbiology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis,
27 MO, 63110, USA

28 ⁹Andrew M. and Jane M. Bursky Center for Human Immunology and Immunotherapy Programs,
29 Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, 63110, USA ¹⁰Department of
30 Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, 37232, USA

31

32 **Contact information:**

33 **James E. Crowe, Jr., M.D.** [*LEAD CONTACT*]

34 Departments of Pediatrics, Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, and the Vanderbilt
35 Vaccine Center

36 **Mail:**

37 Vanderbilt Vaccine Center

38 11475 Medical Research Building IV

39 2213 Garland Avenue

40 Nashville, TN 37232-0417, USA

41 **Telephone** (615) 343-8064

42 **Email** james.crowe@vumc.org

43 **Additional Title Page Footnotes**

44 * These authors contributed equally

45 **Corresponding authors

46

47

- 48 **Keywords:** Coronavirus; SARS-CoV-2; SARS-CoV; COVID-19; Antibodies, Monoclonal;
- 49 Human; Adaptive Immunity.

50 **The COVID-19 pandemic is a major threat to global health for which there are only**
51 **limited medical countermeasures, and we lack a thorough understanding of mechanisms of**
52 **humoral immunity^{1,2}. From a panel of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) targeting the spike**
53 **(S) glycoprotein isolated from the B cells of infected subjects, we identified several mAbs**
54 **that exhibited potent neutralizing activity with IC₅₀ values as low as 0.9 or 15 ng/mL in**
55 **pseudovirus or wild-type (*wt*) SARS-CoV-2 neutralization tests, respectively. The most**
56 **potent mAbs fully block the receptor-binding domain of S (S_{RBD}) from interacting with**
57 **human ACE2. Competition-binding, structural, and functional studies allowed clustering**
58 **of the mAbs into defined classes recognizing distinct epitopes within major antigenic sites**
59 **on the S_{RBD}. Electron microscopy studies revealed that these mAbs recognize distinct**
60 **conformational states of trimeric S protein. Potent neutralizing mAbs recognizing unique**
61 **sites, COV2-2196 and COV2-2130, bound simultaneously to S and synergistically**
62 **neutralized authentic SARS-CoV-2 virus. In two murine models of SARS-CoV-2 infection,**
63 **passive transfer of either COV2-2916 or COV2-2130 alone or a combination of both mAbs**
64 **protected mice from severe weight loss and reduced viral burden and inflammation in the**
65 **lung. These results identify protective epitopes on the S_{RBD} and provide a structure-based**
66 **framework for rational vaccine design and the selection of robust immunotherapeutic**
67 **cocktails.**

68

69 The S protein of SARS-CoV-2 is the molecular determinant of viral attachment, fusion, and
70 entry into host cells³. The cryo-EM structure of a prefusion-stabilized trimeric S protein
71 ectodomain (S2P_{ecto}) for SARS-CoV-2 reveals similar features to that of the SARS-CoV S
72 protein⁴. This type I integral membrane protein and class I fusion protein possesses an N-

73 terminal subunit (S1) that mediates binding to receptor and a C-terminal subunit (S2) that
74 mediates virus–cell membrane fusion. The S1 subunit contains an N-terminal domain (S_{NTD}) and
75 a receptor-binding domain (S_{RBD}). SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV, which share approximately
76 78% sequence identity in their genomes¹ both use human angiotensin-converting enzyme 2
77 (hACE2) as an entry receptor⁵⁻⁷. Previous studies of human immunity to other high-
78 pathogenicity zoonotic betacoronaviruses including SARS-CoV⁸⁻¹² and Middle East respiratory
79 syndrome (MERS)¹³⁻²² showed that Abs to the viral surface spike (S) glycoprotein mediate
80 protective immunity. The most potent S protein-specific mAbs appear to neutralize
81 betacoronaviruses by blocking attachment of virus to host cells by binding to the region on S_{RBD}
82 that directly mediates engagement of the receptor. It is likely that human Abs have promise for
83 use in modifying disease during SARS-CoV-2 infection, when used for prophylaxis, post-
84 exposure prophylaxis, or treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection²³. Many studies including
85 randomized controlled trials evaluating convalescent plasma and one trial evaluating
86 hyperimmune immunoglobulin are ongoing, but it is not yet clear whether such treatments can
87 reduce morbidity or mortality²⁴.

88
89 We isolated a large panel of SARS-CoV-2 S protein-reactive mAbs from the B cells of two
90 individuals who were previously infected with SARS-CoV-2 in Wuhan China²⁵. A subset of
91 those antibodies bound to the receptor-binding domain of S (S_{RBD}) and exhibited neutralizing
92 activity in a rapid screening assay with authentic SARS-CoV-2²⁵. Here, we defined the antigenic
93 landscape of SARS-CoV-2 and determined which sites of S_{RBD} are the target of protective mAbs.
94 We tested a panel of 40 anti-S human mAbs we previously pre-selected by a rapid neutralization
95 screening assay in a quantitative focus reduction neutralization test (FRNT) with SARS-CoV-2

96 strain WA1/2020. These assays revealed the panel exhibited a range of half-maximal inhibitory
97 concentration (IC_{50}) values, from 15 to over 4,000 ng/mL (visualized as a heatmap in Fig. 1a,
98 values shown in Extended Data Table 1, and full curves shown in Extended Data Fig. 1). We
99 hypothesized that many of these S_{RBD} -reactive mAbs neutralize virus infection by blocking S_{RBD}
100 binding to hACE2. Indeed, most neutralizing mAbs we tested inhibited the interaction of hACE2
101 with trimeric S protein directly (Fig. 1a, Extended Data Fig. 2). Consistent with these results,
102 these mAbs also bound strongly to a trimeric S ectodomain ($S2P_{ecto}$) protein or monomeric S_{RBD}
103 (Fig. 1a, Extended Data Fig. 3). We evaluated whether $S2P_{ecto}$ or S_{RBD} binding or hACE2-
104 blocking potency predicted binding neutralization potency independently, but none of these
105 measurements correlated with neutralization potency (Fig. 1b-d). However, each of the mAbs in
106 the highest neutralizing potency tier ($IC_{50} < 150$ ng/mL) also revealed strongest blocking activity
107 against hACE2 ($IC_{50} < 150$ ng/mL) and exceptional binding activity ($EC_{50} < 2$ ng/mL) to $S2P_{ecto}$
108 trimer and S_{RBD} (Fig. 1e). Representative neutralization curves for two potently neutralizing
109 mAbs designated COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 are shown in (Fig. 1f). Potent neutralization was
110 confirmed using pseudovirus neutralization assays, which revealed far more sensitive
111 neutralization phenotypes than *wt* virus and demonstrated a requirement for the use of live virus
112 assays for assessment of mAb potency (Fig. 1g). Both of these mAbs bound strongly to $S2P_{ecto}$
113 trimer and fully blocked hACE2 binding (Fig. 1h-i).

114

115 We next defined the major antigenic sites on S_{RBD} for neutralizing mAbs by competition-binding
116 analysis. We first used a biolayer interferometry-based competition assay with a minimal S_{RBD}
117 domain to screen for mAbs that competed for binding with the potently neutralizing mAb COV2-
118 2196 or a recombinant version of the previously described SARS-CoV mAb CR3022, which

119 recognizes a conserved cryptic epitope^{10,26}. We identified three major groups of competing mAbs
120 (Fig. 2a). The largest group of mAbs blocked COV2-2196 but not rCR3022, while some mAbs
121 were blocked by rCR3022 but not COV2-2196. Two mAbs, including COV2-2130, were not
122 blocked by either reference mAb. Most mAbs competed with hACE2 for binding, suggesting
123 that they bound near the hACE2 binding site of the S_{RBD}. We used COV2-2196, COV2-2130,
124 and rCR3022 in an ELISA-based competition-binding assay with trimeric S2P_{ecto} protein and
125 also found that S_{RBD} contained three major antigenic sites, with some mAbs likely making
126 contacts in more than one site (Fig. 2b). Most of the potently neutralizing mAbs directly
127 competed for binding with COV2-2196.

128
129 Since COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 did not compete for binding to S_{RBD}, we assessed if these
130 mAbs synergize for virus neutralization, a phenomenon previously observed for SARS-CoV
131 mAbs¹⁰. We tested combination responses (see dose-response neutralization matrix, Fig. 2c) in
132 the FRNT using SARS-CoV-2 and compared these experimental values with the expected
133 responses calculated by synergy scoring models²⁷. The comparison revealed that the combination
134 of COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 was synergistic (with a synergy score of 17.4, where any score of
135 >10 indicates synergy). The data in Fig. 2c shows the dose-response synergy matrix and
136 demonstrates that a combined mAb dose of 79 ng/mL in the cocktail (16 ng/mL of COV2-2196
137 and 63 ng/mL of COV2-2130) had the same activity as 250 ng/mL of each individual mAb (see
138 Fig. 2c). This finding shows that using a cocktail the dose of each mAb can be reduced by more
139 than three-fold to achieve the same potency of virus neutralization *in vitro*.

140

141 We next defined the epitopes recognized by representative mAbs in the two major competition-
142 binding groups that synergize for neutralization. We performed mutagenesis studies of the S_{RBD}
143 using alanine or arginine substitution to determine critical residues for binding of neutralizing
144 mAbs (Extended Data Fig. 4). Loss of binding studies revealed F486A or N487A as critical
145 residues for COV2-2196 and N487A as a critical residue for COV2-2165, which compete with
146 one another for binding, and likewise mutagenesis studies for COV2-2130 using K444A and
147 G447R mutants defined these residues as critical for recognition (Fig. 3a). Previous structural
148 studies have defined the interaction between the S_{RBD} and hACE2 (Fig. 3b)²⁸. Most of the
149 interacting residues in the S_{RBD} are contained within a 60-amino-acid linear peptide that defines
150 the hACE2 recognition motif (Fig. 3c). We next tested binding of human mAbs to this minimal
151 peptide and found that potent neutralizing members of the largest competition-binding group
152 including COV2-2196, COV2-2165, and COV2-2832 recognized this peptide (Fig. 3c),
153 suggesting these mAbs make critical contacts within the hACE2 recognition motif.

154
155 We used negative-stain electron microscopy of $S2P_{ecto}$ trimer/Fab complexes to structurally
156 determine the epitopes for these mAbs. The potentially neutralizing antibodies COV2-2196 and
157 COV2-2165 bound to the hACE2 recognition motif of S_{RBD} and recognized the ‘open’
158 conformational state of the $S2P_{ecto}$ trimer (Fig. 3d). The mode of engagement of these two
159 antibodies differed, however, as the binding pose and the angle relative to the spike ‘body’ for
160 one was different compared to the other. COV2-2130, which represents the second competition-
161 binding group, bound to the RBD in the $S2P_{ecto}$ trimer in the ‘closed’ position (Fig. 3d). Since
162 COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 did not compete for binding, we attempted to make complexes of
163 both Fabs bound at the same time to the $S2P_{ecto}$ trimer. We found that both Fabs bound

164 simultaneously when the S2P_{ecto} trimer was in the open position, indicating that COV2-2130 can
165 recognize the S_{RBD} in both conformations (Fig. 3e). Overlaying the two-Fab complex with the
166 structure of the RBD:CR3022 complex²⁶, we observed that these antibodies bind to three distinct
167 sites on S_{RBD}, as predicted based on our competition-binding studies (Fig. 3f).

168
169 Next, we tested the prophylactic efficacy of COV2-2196 or COV2-2130 monotherapy or a
170 combination of COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 in a newly developed SARS-CoV-2 infection model
171 in BALB/c mice in which hACE2 is expressed in the lung after intranasal adenovirus (AdV-
172 hACE2) transduction. In this relatively stringent disease model, we also administered a single
173 dose of anti-Ifnar1 antibody to augment virus infection and pathogenesis, which results in a
174 disseminated interstitial pneumonia (A. Hassan and M. Diamond, submitted for publication). We
175 passively transferred a single dose of mAb COV2-2196 (10 mg/kg), COV2-2130 (10 mg/kg), a
176 combination of COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 (5 mg/kg each), or an isotype control mAb (10
177 mg/kg) to AdV-hACE2-transduced mice one day before intranasal challenge with 4 x 10⁵ PFU of
178 SARS-CoV-2. Prophylaxis with COV2-2196 or COV2-2130 or their combination prevented
179 severe SARS-CoV-2-induced weight loss through the first week of infection (Fig. 4a).

180 Viral RNA levels were reduced significantly at 7 dpi in the lung and distant sites including the
181 heart and spleen (Fig. 4b). The expression of interferon gamma (INF-g), IL-6, CXCL10 and
182 CCL2 cytokine and chemokine genes, which are indicators of inflammation, also was reduced in
183 the lung of treated mice at 7 dpi—the peak of the disease (Fig. 4c).

184
185 We also tested COV2-2196 or COV2-2130 or their combination for prophylactic efficacy in an
186 immunocompetent model using a mouse-adapted (MA) SARS-CoV-2 virus²⁹ (Fig. 4d). *In vitro*

187 tests showed that the IC₅₀ values for neutralization were comparable for the *wt* and MA SARS-
188 CoV-2 viruses for these mAbs (data not shown). Each of the mAb treatments delivered at a dose
189 of 200 µg/mouse (~ 8 mg/kg) reduced viral RNA levels up to 10⁵-fold at 2 dpi in the lung when
190 compared to the isotype control group (Fig. 4e, left). Concordantly, all animals from COV2-2196
191 and COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 treatment group and 8 of 10 animals from COV2-2130 treatment
192 no longer had infectious virus at 2 dpi in the lung as measured by plaque titer of lung tissue (Fig.
193 4e, right). Collectively, these results in mice suggested that COV2-2196 or COV2-2130 alone or
194 in combination are promising candidates for treatment or prevention of COVID-19.

195
196 Here, we defined the antigenic landscape for a large panel of highly potent mAbs against SARS-
197 CoV-2. These detailed studies and the screening studies that identified this panel of mAbs from a
198 larger panel of hundreds²⁵ demonstrate that although diverse human neutralizing antibodies are
199 elicited by natural infection with SARS-CoV-2, only a small subset of those mAbs are of high
200 potency (IC₅₀<50 ng/mL against live SARS-CoV-2 virus), and therefore, suitable for therapeutic
201 development. Biochemical and structural analysis of these potent mAbs defined three principal
202 antigenic sites of vulnerability to neutralization by human mAbs elicited by natural infection
203 with SARS-CoV on the S_{RBD}. Representative mAbs from the two most potent antigenic sites
204 were shown to synergize *in vitro* and protect as an *in vivo* cocktail. This finding reveals critical
205 features of effective humoral immunity to SARS-CoV-2 and suggests that the role of synergistic
206 neutralization activity in polyclonal responses should be explored further. Moreover, as SARS-
207 CoV-2 continues to circulate, population immunity elicited by natural infection may start to
208 select for antigenic variants that escape from the selective pressure of neutralizing antibodies,
209 reinforcing the need to target multiple epitopes of S protein in vaccines or immunotherapeutics.

210 The common S gene variants across the globe reported to date are located at positions D614G,
211 V483A, L5F, Q675H, H655Y and S939F³⁰, far away from the amino acid variants at residues
212 486 or 487 identified in our mutation studies for the lead mAbs studied here. Rationally-selected
213 therapeutic cocktails like the one described here might offer even greater resistance to SARS-
214 CoV-2 escape. These studies set the stage for preclinical evaluation and development of the
215 identified mAbs as candidates for use as COVID-19 immunotherapeutics in humans.
216

217 **Data availability.** The EM maps have been deposited at the Electron Microscopy Data Bank
218 with accession codes EMBD 21965 (S2P_{ecto} apo), EMD-21974 (S2P_{ecto} + Fab COVs-2165),
219 EMD-21975 (S2P_{ecto} + Fab COVs-2196), EMD-21976 (S2P_{ecto} + Fab COVs-2130) and EMD-
220 21977 (S2P_{ecto} + Fab COV2-2196 + Fab COV2-2130). Materials reported in this study will be
221 made available but may require execution of a Materials Transfer Agreement.

222
223 **Acknowledgements.** We thank Angela Jones and the staff of the Vanderbilt VANTAGE core
224 laboratory for expedited sequencing, Ross Trosseth for assistance with data management and analysis,
225 Robin Bombardi and Cinque Soto of VUMC for technical consultation on genomics approaches, Arthur
226 Kim, Adam Bailey, Laura VanBlargan, James Earnest, Broc McCune and Swathi Shrihari of WUSTL
227 for experimental assistance and key reagents, and Kevin M. Tuffy, Seme Diallo, Patrick M.
228 McTamney, and Lori Clarke of AstraZeneca for generation of protein and pseudovirus reagents and
229 related data. This study was supported by Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
230 grants HR0011-18-2-0001 and HR00 11-18-3-0001, NIH contracts 75N93019C00074 and
231 75N93019C00062 and the Dolly Parton COVID-19 Research Fund at Vanderbilt. This work was
232 supported by NIH grant 1S10RR028106-01A1 for the Next Generation Nucleic Acid Sequencer,
233 housed in Vanderbilt Technologies for Advanced Genomics (VANTAGE) and the Vanderbilt Institute
234 for Clinical and Translational Research with grant support from (UL1TR002243 from NCATS/NIH).
235 S.J.Z. was supported by NIH T32 AI095202. J.B.C. is supported by a Helen Hay Whitney Foundation
236 postdoctoral fellowship. D.R.M. was supported by NIH T32 AI007151 and a Burroughs Wellcome
237 Fund Postdoctoral Enrichment Program Award. J.E.C. is the recipient of the 2019 Future Insight Prize
238 from Merck KGaA, Darmstadt Germany, which supported this research with a research grant. The

239 content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of
240 the U.S. government or the other sponsors.

241

242 **Author contributions.** Conceived of the project: S.J.Z., P.G., R.H.C., L.B.T., M.S.D., J.E.C.;

243 Obtained funding: J.E.C. and M.S.D. Performed laboratory experiments: S.J.Z., P.G., J.B.C.,

244 E.B., R.E.C., J.X.R., A.T., R.S.N., R.E.S., N.S., L.E.W., A.O.H., N.M.K., E.W., J.M.F., L.B.T.,

245 J.J.S., K.R., Y.-M.L., A.S., L.E.G., D.R.M.; Performed computational work: E.C.C., T.J., S.D.,

246 L.M.; Supervised research: N.L.K, M.S.D., L.B.T., R.S.B., R.H.C., J.E.C. Wrote the first draft of

247 the paper: S.J.Z., P.G., R.H.C., J.E.C.; All authors reviewed and approved the final manuscript.

248

249 **Competing interests.** R.S.B. has served as a consultant for Takeda and Sanofi Pasteur on issues related

250 to vaccines. M.S.D. is a consultant for Inbios, Vir Biotechnology, NGM Biopharmaceuticals, Eli Lilly,

251 and is on the Scientific Advisory Board of Moderna, a past recipient of unrelated research grant from

252 Moderna and a current recipient of an unrelated research grant Emergent BioSolutions.

253 J.E.C. has served as a consultant for Sanofi and is on the Scientific Advisory Boards of CompuVax and

254 Meissa Vaccines, is a recipient of previous unrelated research grants from Moderna and Sanofi and is

255 Founder of IDBiologics, Inc. Vanderbilt University has applied for patents concerning SARS-CoV-2

256 antibodies that are related to this work. AstraZeneca has filed patents for materials/findings related to

257 this work. J.J.S., K.R., Y.-M.L., and N.L.K. are employees of AstraZeneca and currently hold

258 AstraZeneca stock or stock options. All other authors declared no competing interests.

259

260 **Additional information**

261

262 **Supplementary information** is available for this paper.

263

264 **Correspondence and requests for materials** should be addressed to J.E.C.

265 **REFERENCES**

266

267 1. Zhou, P., *et al.* A pneumonia outbreak associated with a new coronavirus of probable bat
268 origin. *Nature* **579**, 270-273 (2020).

269

270 2. Zhu, N., *et al.* A novel coronavirus from patients with pneumonia in China, 2019. *N Engl*
271 *J Med* **382**, 727-733 (2020).

272

273 3. Pillay, T.S. Gene of the month: the 2019-nCoV/SARS-CoV-2 novel coronavirus spike
274 protein. *J Clin Pathol* (2020).

275

276 4. Wrapp, D., *et al.* Cryo-EM structure of the 2019-nCoV spike in the prefusion
277 conformation. *Science* **367**, 1260-1263 (2020).

278

279 5. Wan, Y., Shang, J., Graham, R., Baric, R.S. & Li, F. Receptor recognition by the novel
280 Coronavirus from Wuhan: an Analysis Based on Decade-Long Structural Studies of SARS
281 Coronavirus. *J Virol* **94**(2020).

282

283 6. Hoffmann, M., *et al.* SARS-CoV-2 cell entry depends on ACE2 and TMPRSS2 and is
284 blocked by a clinically proven protease inhibitor. *Cell* **181**, 271-280 e278 (2020).

285

286 7. Li, W., *et al.* Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 is a functional receptor for the SARS
287 coronavirus. *Nature* **426**, 450-454 (2003).

288

289 8. Sui, J., *et al.* Potent neutralization of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)
290 coronavirus by a human mAb to S1 protein that blocks receptor association. *Proc Natl*
291 *Acad Sci U S A* **101**, 2536-2541 (2004).

292

293 9. ter Meulen, J., *et al.* Human monoclonal antibody as prophylaxis for SARS coronavirus
294 infection in ferrets. *Lancet* **363**, 2139-2141 (2004).

295

296 10. ter Meulen, J., *et al.* Human monoclonal antibody combination against SARS coronavirus:
297 synergy and coverage of escape mutants. *PLoS Med* **3**, e237 (2006).

298

299 11. Zhu, Z., *et al.* Potent cross-reactive neutralization of SARS coronavirus isolates by human
300 monoclonal antibodies. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **104**, 12123-12128 (2007).

301

302 12. Rockx, B., *et al.* Structural basis for potent cross-neutralizing human monoclonal antibody
303 protection against lethal human and zoonotic severe acute respiratory syndrome
304 coronavirus challenge. *J Virol* **82**, 3220-3235 (2008).

305

306 13. Chen, Z., *et al.* Human neutralizing monoclonal antibody inhibition of Middle East
307 respiratory syndrome coronavirus replication in the common marmoset. *J Infect Dis* **215**,
308 1807-1815 (2017).

309

- 310 14. Choi, J.H., *et al.* Characterization of a human monoclonal antibody generated from a B-
311 cell specific for a prefusion-stabilized spike protein of Middle East respiratory syndrome
312 coronavirus. *PLoS One* **15**, e0232757 (2020).
313
- 314 15. Niu, P., *et al.* Ultrapotent human neutralizing antibody repertoires against Middle East
315 respiratory syndrome coronavirus from a recovered patient. *J Infect Dis* **218**, 1249-1260
316 (2018).
317
- 318 16. Wang, L., *et al.* Importance of neutralizing monoclonal antibodies targeting multiple
319 antigenic sites on the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus spike glycoprotein to
320 avoid neutralization escape. *J Virol* **92**(2018).
321
- 322 17. Wang, N., *et al.* Structural definition of a neutralization-sensitive epitope on the MERS-
323 CoV S1-NTD. *Cell Rep* **28**, 3395-3405 e3396 (2019).
324
- 325 18. Zhang, S., *et al.* Structural definition of a unique neutralization epitope on the receptor-
326 binding domain of MERS-CoV spike glycoprotein. *Cell Rep* **24**, 441-452 (2018).
327
- 328 19. Corti, D., *et al.* Prophylactic and postexposure efficacy of a potent human monoclonal
329 antibody against MERS coronavirus. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **112**, 10473-10478 (2015).
330
- 331 20. Jiang, L., *et al.* Potent neutralization of MERS-CoV by human neutralizing monoclonal
332 antibodies to the viral spike glycoprotein. *Sci Transl Med* **6**, 234ra259 (2014).

- 333
- 334 21. Tang, X.C., *et al.* Identification of human neutralizing antibodies against MERS-CoV and
335 their role in virus adaptive evolution. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **111**, E2018-2026 (2014).
- 336
- 337 22. Ying, T., *et al.* Exceptionally potent neutralization of Middle East respiratory syndrome
338 coronavirus by human monoclonal antibodies. *J Virol* **88**, 7796-7805 (2014).
- 339
- 340 23. Jiang, S., Hillyer, C. & Du, L. Neutralizing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 and other
341 human coronaviruses. *Trends Immunol* **41**, 355-359 (2020).
- 342
- 343 24. Valk, S.J., *et al.* Convalescent plasma or hyperimmune immunoglobulin for people with
344 COVID-19: a rapid review. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* **5**, CD013600 (2020).
- 345
- 346 25. Zost, S.J., *et al.* Rapid isolation and profiling of a diverse panel of human monoclonal
347 antibodies targeting the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. *bioRxiv*, 2020.2005.2012.091462
348 (2020).
- 349
- 350 26. Yuan, M., *et al.* A highly conserved cryptic epitope in the receptor binding domains of
351 SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV. *Science* **368**, 630-633 (2020).
- 352
- 353 27. Ianevski, A., He, L., Aittokallio, T. & Tang, J. SynergyFinder: a web application for
354 analyzing drug combination dose-response matrix data. *Bioinformatics* **33**, 2413-2415
355 (2017).

356

357 28. Lan, J., *et al.* Structure of the SARS-CoV-2 spike receptor-binding domain bound to the
358 ACE2 receptor. *Nature* **581**, 215-220 (2020).

359

360 29. Dinno, K.H., *et al.* A mouse-adapted SARS-CoV-2 model for the evaluation of COVID-
361 19 medical countermeasures. *bioRxiv*, 2020.2005.2006.081497 (2020).

362

363 30. Laha, S., *et al.* Characterizations of SARS-CoV-2 mutational profile, spike protein stability
364 and viral transmission. *bioRxiv*, 2020.2005.2003.066266 (2020).

365

366

367 **Figure Legends:**

368 **Figure 1. Functional characteristics of neutralizing SARS-CoV-2 mAbs.**

369 **a.** Heatmap of mAb neutralization activity, hACE2 blocking activity, and binding to either
370 trimeric S2Pecto protein or monomeric SRBD. MAbs are ordered by neutralization potency
371 (highest at the top, lowest at the bottom). Dashed lines indicate the 13 antibodies with a
372 neutralization IC₅₀ value lower than 150 ng/mL for wt virus. IC₅₀ values are visualized for viral
373 neutralization and hACE2 blocking, while EC₅₀ values are visualized for binding. A
374 recombinant form of the cross-reactive SARS-CoV SRBD mAb CR3022 is shown as a positive
375 control, while the anti-dengue mAb 2D22 is shown as a negative control. Data are representative
376 of at least 2 independent experiments, each performed in technical duplicate. No inhibition
377 indicates an IC₅₀ value of >10,000 ng/mL, while no binding indicates an EC₅₀ value of >10,000
378 ng/mL.

379 **b-d.** Correlation of hACE2 blocking, S2Pecto trimer binding, or SRBD binding of mAbs with
380 their neutralization activity. R2 values are shown for linear regression analysis of log-
381 transformed values. Purple circles indicate mAbs with a neutralization IC50 value lower than
382 150 ng/mL.

383 **e.** Correlation of hACE2 blocking and S2Pecto trimer binding. R2 values are shown for linear
384 regression analysis of log-transformed values.

385 **f.** Neutralization curves for COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 in a neutralization assay against
386 authentic SARS-CoV-2 virus. Calculated IC50 values are denoted on the graph. Error bars
387 denote the standard deviation of each point. Data are representative of at least 2 independent
388 experiments, each performed in technical duplicate.

389 **g.** Neutralization curves for COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 in a pseudovirus neutralization assay.
390 Error bars denote the standard deviation of each point. Values shown are technical duplicates
391 from a single experiment. Calculated IC50 values from a minimum of 6 experiments are denoted
392 on the graph.

393 **h.** hACE2 blocking curves for COV2-2196, COV2-2130, and the non-blocking SARS-CoV mAb
394 rCR3022 in the hACE2 blocking ELISA. Calculated IC50 values are denoted on the graph. Error
395 bars denote the standard deviation of each point. Values shown are technical triplicates from a
396 representative experiment repeated twice.

397 **i.** ELISA binding of COV2-2196, COV2-2130, and rCR3022 to trimeric S2Pecto. Calculated
398 EC50 values are denoted on the graph. Error bars denote the standard deviation of each point.
399 Values shown are technical triplicates from a representative experiment repeated twice.

400

401

402

403 **Figure 2. Epitope mapping of mAbs by competition-binding analysis and synergistic**

404 **neutralization by a pair of mAbs.**

405 **a.** Left: biolayer interferometry-based competition binding assay measuring the ability of mAbs

406 to prevent binding of reference mAbs COV2-2196 and rCR3022 to RBD fused to mouse Fc

407 (RBD-mFc) loaded onto anti-mouse Fc biosensors. Values in squares are % of binding of the

408 reference mAb in the presence of the competing mAb relative to a mock-competition control.

409 Black squares denote full competition (<33% of binding relative to no-competition control),

410 while white squares denote no competition (>67% of binding relative to no-competition control).

411 Right: biolayer interferometry-based competition binding assay measuring the ability of mAbs to

412 prevent binding of hACE2. Values denote % binding of hACE2, normalized to hACE2 binding

413 in the absence of competition. Red color denotes competition of mAb with hACE2.

414 **b.** Competition of neutralizing mAb panel with reference mAbs COV2-2130, COV2-2196, or

415 rCR3022. Reference mAbs were biotinylated and binding of reference mAbs to trimeric S2Pecto

416 was measured in the presence of saturating amounts of each mAb in a competition ELISA.

417 ELISA signal for each reference mAb was normalized to the signal in the presence of the non-

418 binding anti-dengue mAb 2D22. Black denotes full competition (<25% binding of reference

419 mAb), grey denotes partial competition (25-60% binding of reference mAb), and white denotes

420 no competition (>60% binding of reference mAb).

421 **c.** Neutralization dose-response matrix of wild-type SARS-CoV-2 by COV2-2196 and COV2-

422 2130. Axes denote the concentration of each mAb. Experiment was performed in technical

423 triplicate. Shown is a representative experiment that was performed in technical triplicate. %

424 neutralization for each combination of mAbs is shown in each square. A white-to-red heatmap

425 denotes 0% neutralization to 100% neutralization, respectively. **d.** Synergy map calculated based
426 on the SARS-CoV-2 neutralization in the above panel. Red color denotes areas where synergistic
427 neutralization was observed, and a black box denotes the area of maximal synergy between the
428 two mAbs.

429

430 **Figure 3. Epitope identification and structural characterization of mAbs.**

431 **a.** Identification of critical contact residues by alanine and arginine mutagenesis. Top: binding of
432 COV2-2130 (gold), COV2-2165 (maroon) or COV2-2196 (dark purple) to wild-type (wt) or
433 mutant SRBD constructs measured by biolayer interferometry. Shown on y-axis is the response
434 normalized to the signal observed for binding to wt SRBD. Bottom: representative binding
435 curves for COV2-2196 to wt or SRBD constructs with critical contact residues mutated.

436 **b.** Crystal structure of SARS-CoV-2 (blue) and hACE2 (green) (PDB (6M0J)). The hACE2
437 recognition motif is colored orange. Critical contact residues for COV2-2130 are shown as gold
438 spheres, while critical contact residues for COV2-2196 are shown as purple spheres.

439 **c.** ELISA binding of mAbs to the 60-amino-acid hACE2 recognition motif. r2D22, an anti-
440 dengue mAb, is shown as a negative control. Bottom: structure of hACE2 recognition motif in
441 orange with COV2-2196 critical contact residues shown in purple.

442 **d.** Single-Fab:S2Pecto trimer complexes visualized by negative-stain electron microscopy for
443 COV2-2130 (gold), COV2-2165 (maroon), or COV2-2196 (dark purple). The RBD is shown in
444 blue and the S N-terminal domain (NTD) is shown in red. Electron density is shown in grey.
445 Trimer state (open or closed) is denoted for each complex. Representative 2D class averages for
446 each complex are shown at the bottom (box size 128 pixel).

447 e. COV2-2130 and COV2-2196 Fabs in complex with S2Pecto trimer. Simultaneous binding of
448 COV2-2130 (gold) and COV2-2196 (purple) Fabs to S2Pecto trimer. Electron density is shown
449 in grey. Trimer state (open or closed) is denoted. Representative 2D class averages for the
450 complexes are shown at the bottom (box size 128 pixels). All images were made with Chimera.
451 f. Competition-binding analysis visualized on S2Pecto trimer. The CR3022 crystal structure was
452 docked into the double-Fab:S2Pecto trimer structure. CR3022 is shown in cyan. Bottom: a
453 quantitative Venn diagram notes the number of mAbs in each competition group and the overlap
454 between groups.

455

456 **Figure 4. Protective efficacy of neutralizing human mAbs against SARS-CoV-2 infection.**

457 a. SARS-CoV-2 challenge model. Ten to eleven-week-old BALB/c mice (two experiments of 4-
458 5 mice per group) were treated with anti-Ifnar1 mAb and transduced with AdV-hACE2 via the
459 i.n. route one day later. After four days, mice were treated via the i.p. route with 200 µg of mAbs
460 CoV2-2196, -2130, or combination (1:1 ratio) or isotype control mAb. One day later, SARS-
461 CoV-2 was inoculated via the i.n. route. Tissues were harvested at 7 dpi for analysis (c, d).

462 b. Body weight change of mice in panel a. (two-way ordinary ANOVA with Tukey's post-test:
463 **** P < 0.0001).

464 c. Viral burden in the lung, spleen and heart was measured by RT-qPCR: Kruskal-Wallis
465 ANOVA with Dunn's post-test (*, P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.001, **** P < 0.0001). The
466 dashed line indicates the assay limit of detection.

467 d. Cytokine and chemokine gene expression was measured by qPCR analysis. Kruskal-Wallis
468 ANOVA with Dunn's post-test (*, P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.001).

469 e. MA-SARS-CoV-2 challenge model. Twelve-week-old BALB/c mice (n=10) were inoculated
470 with 105 PFU of MA-SARS-CoV-2 via the i.n. route. Body weight change of mice is shown.
471 f. Viral burden in the lung was measured at 2 dpi by RT-qPCR (left) or plaque assay (right) from
472 (e): Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA with Dunn's post-test (***) $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$).

473

474 **Supplementary Information**

475

476 **Extended Data Figure. 1. SARS-CoV-2 neutralization curves for mAb panel.** Neutralization
477 of authentic SARS-CoV-2 by human mAbs. Mean \pm SD of technical duplicates is shown. Data
478 represent one of two or more independent experiments

479

480 **Extended Data Figure 2. Inhibition curves for mAb inhibition of S2P_{ecto} binding to hACE2.**

481 Blocking of hACE2 binding to S2P_{ecto} by anti-SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing human mAbs. Mean \pm
482 SD of triplicates of one experiment is shown. Antibodies CR3022 and 2D22 served as controls.

483

484 **Extended Data Figure. 3. ELISA binding of anti-SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing human mAbs to**

485 **trimeric S_{RBD}, S2P_{ecto}, or SARS-CoV S2P_{ecto} antigen.** Mean \pm SD of triplicates and

486 representative of two experiments are shown. Antibodies CR3022 and 2D22 served as controls.

487

488 **Extended Data Figure. 4. Mapping of mAb critical contact residues by alanine and arginine**

489 **mutagenesis and biolayer interferometry.**

490 **a. Left:** Response values for mAb binding to *wt* or mutant S_{RBD} constructs normalized to *wt*.

491 Asterisks denote residues where increased dissociation of mAb was observed, likely indicating

492 the residue is proximal to mAb epitope. *Right*: full response curves for mAb association and
493 dissociation with *wt* or mutant S_{RBD} constructs.

494 **b.** Structure of the RBD highlighting the critical contact residues for several mAbs and their
495 location on the structure.

496

Figure 1

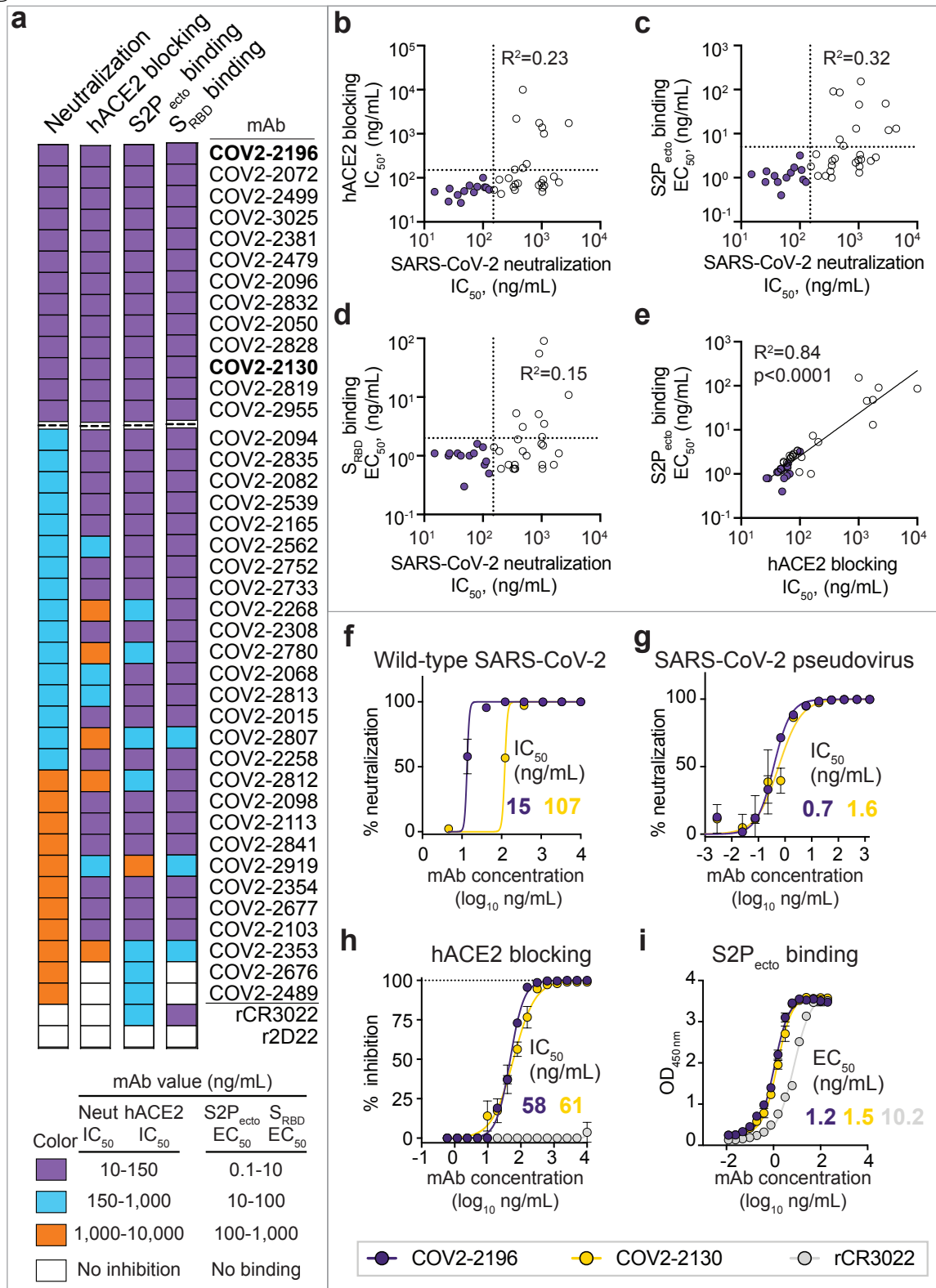


Figure 2

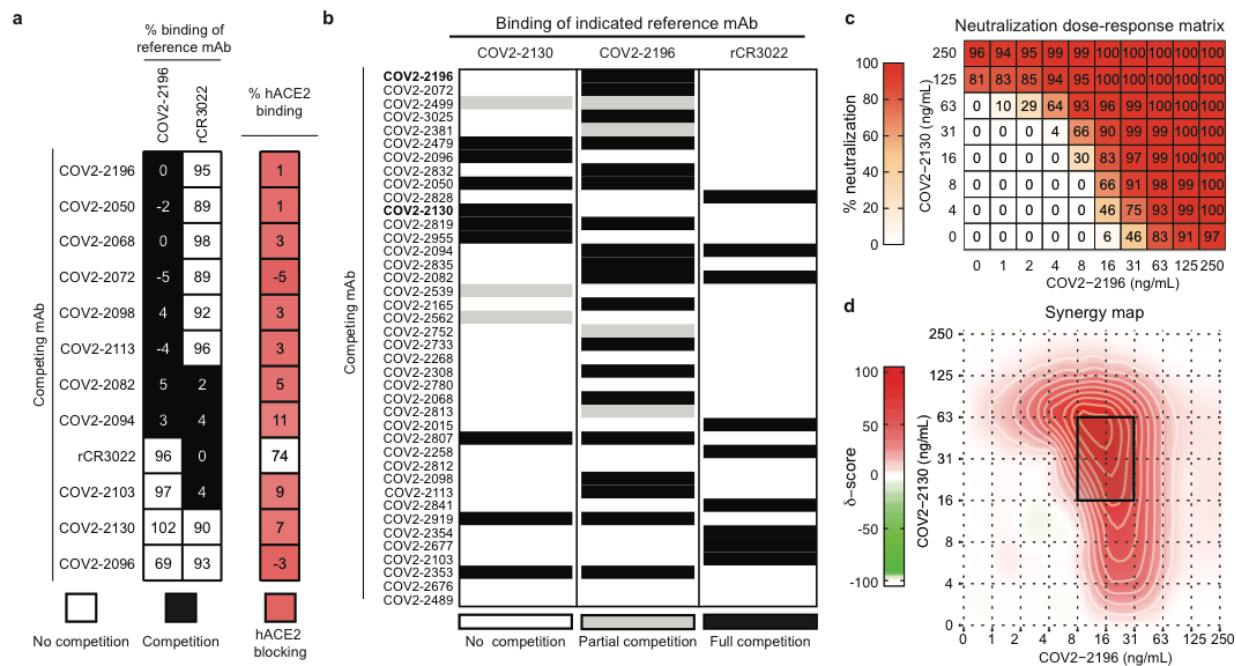


Figure 3

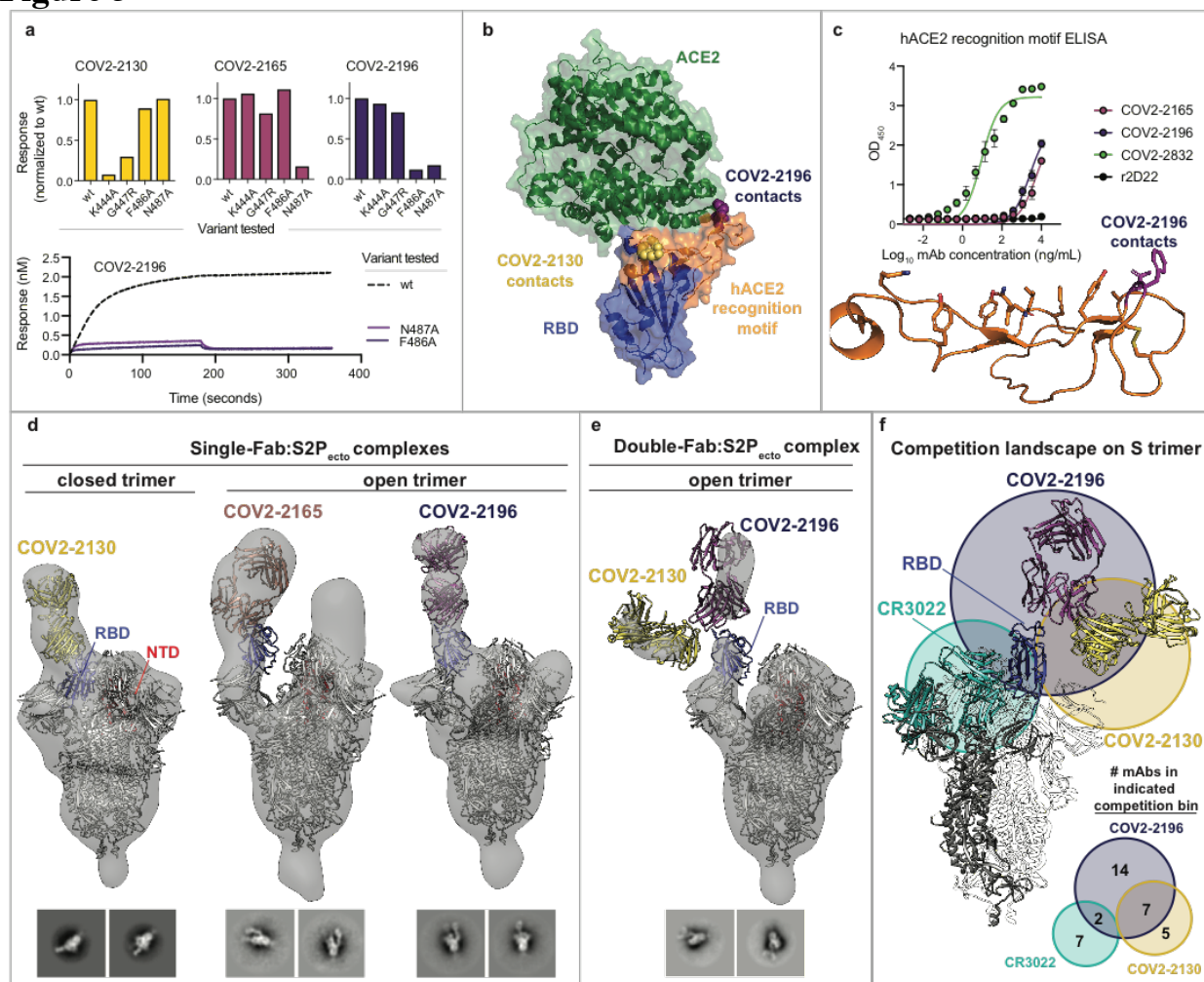
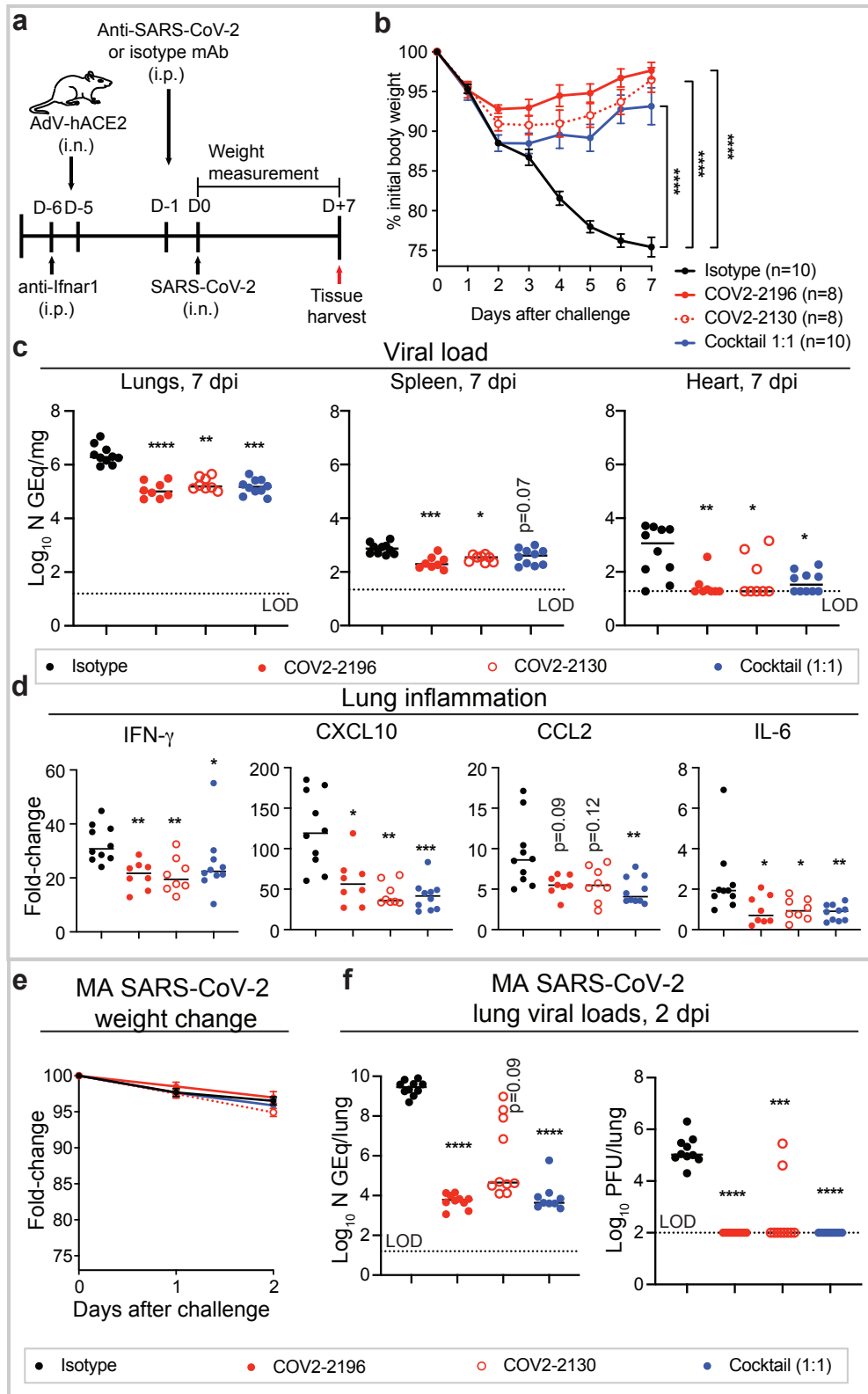
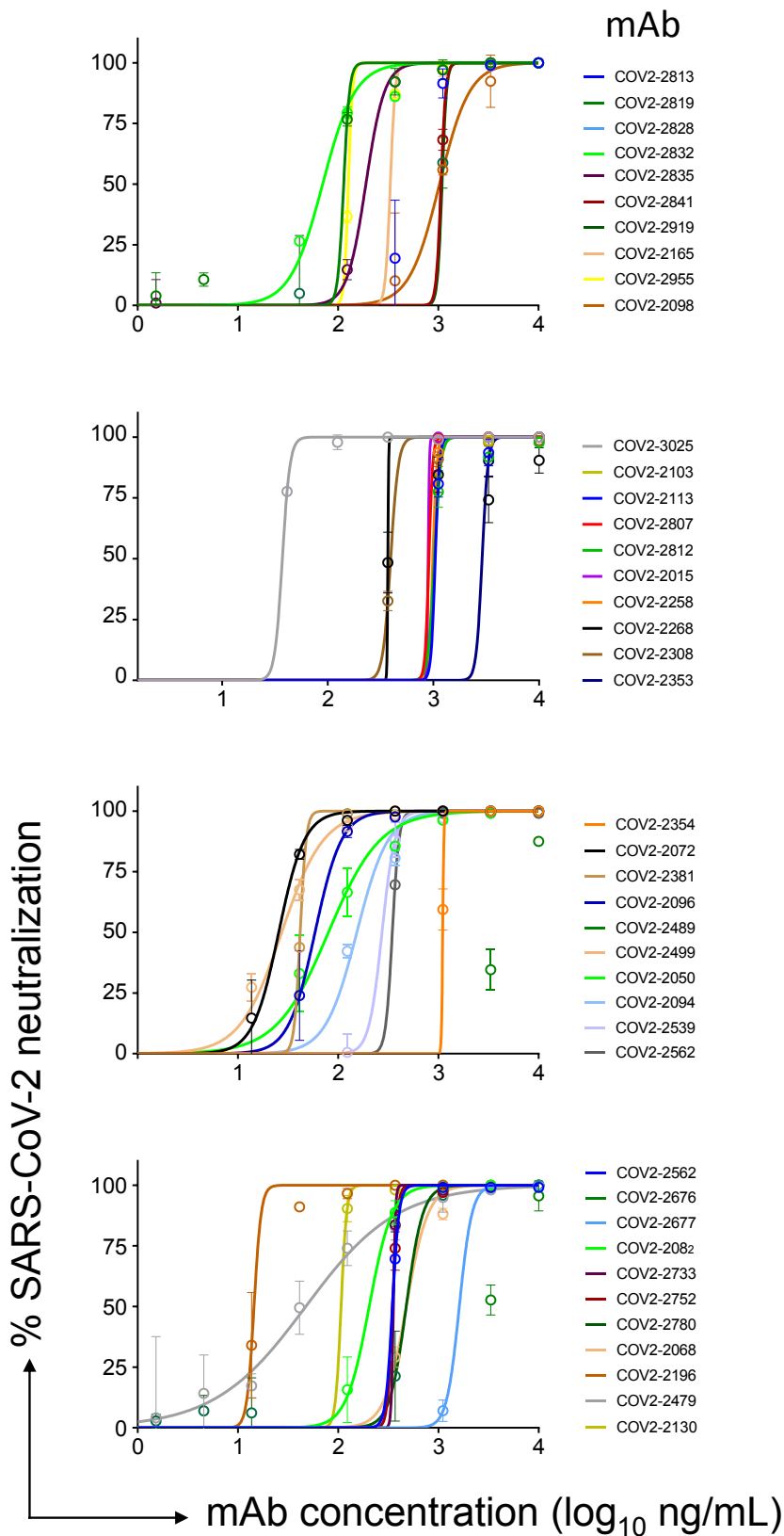


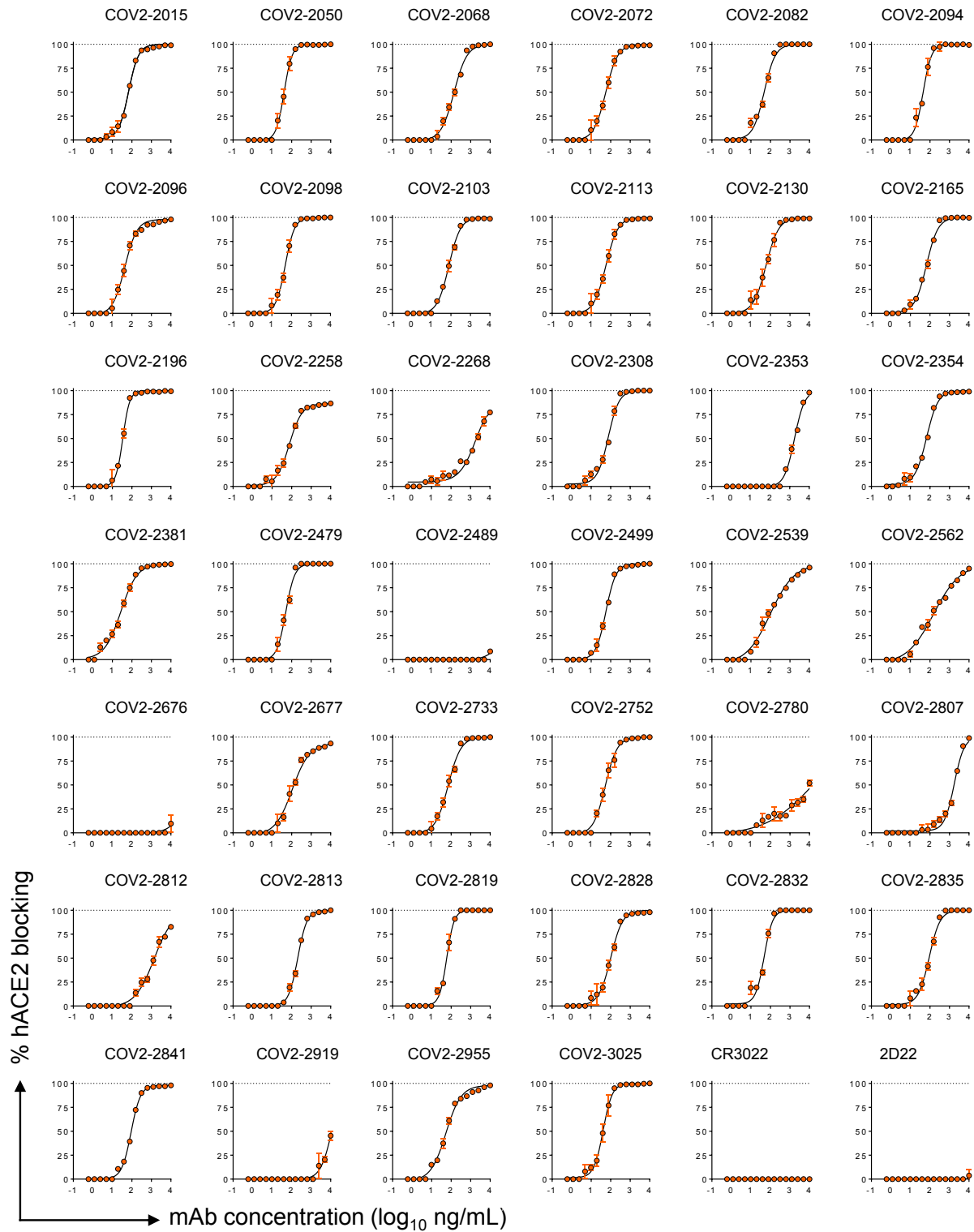
Figure 4



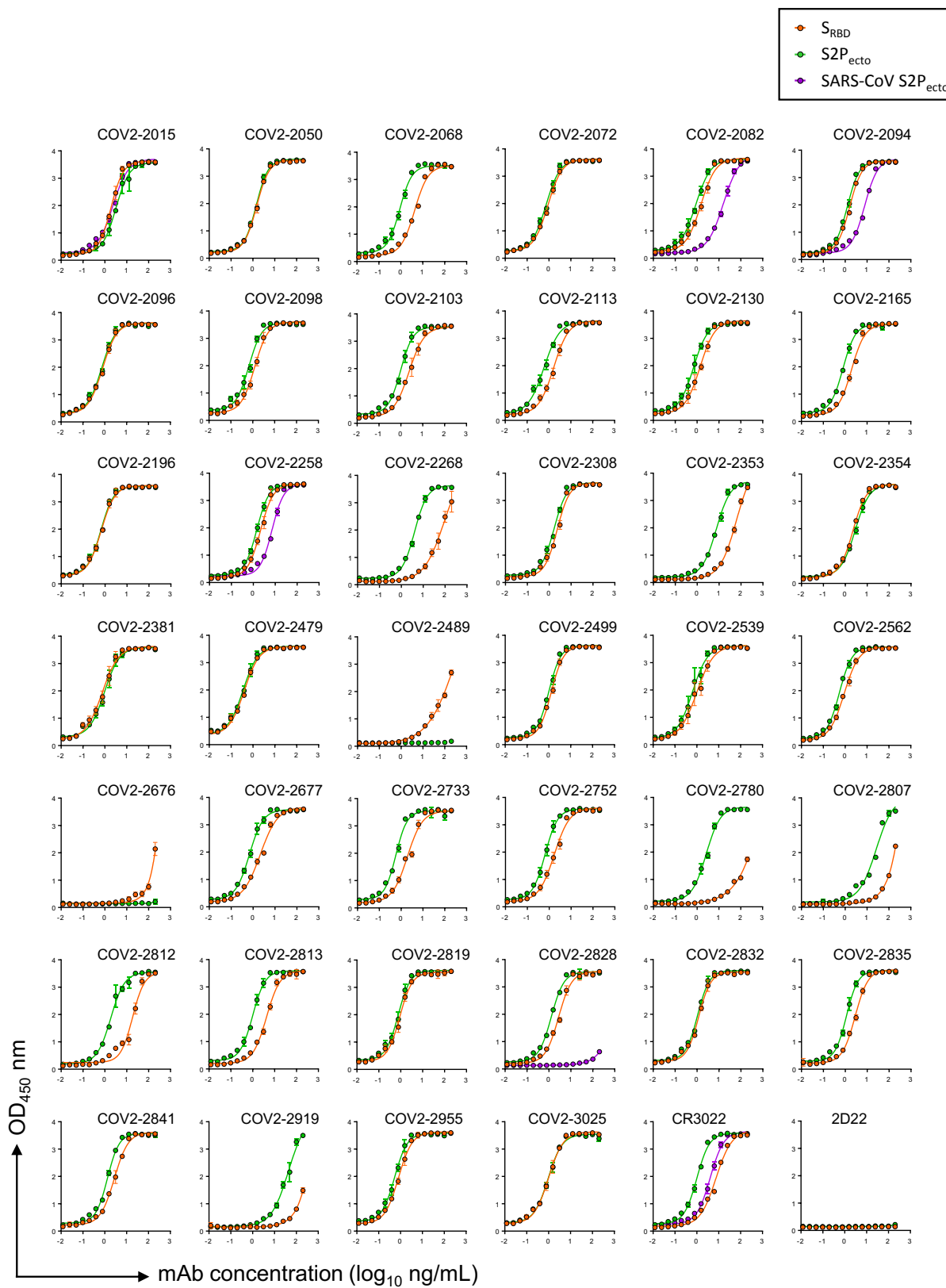
Extended Data Figure 1



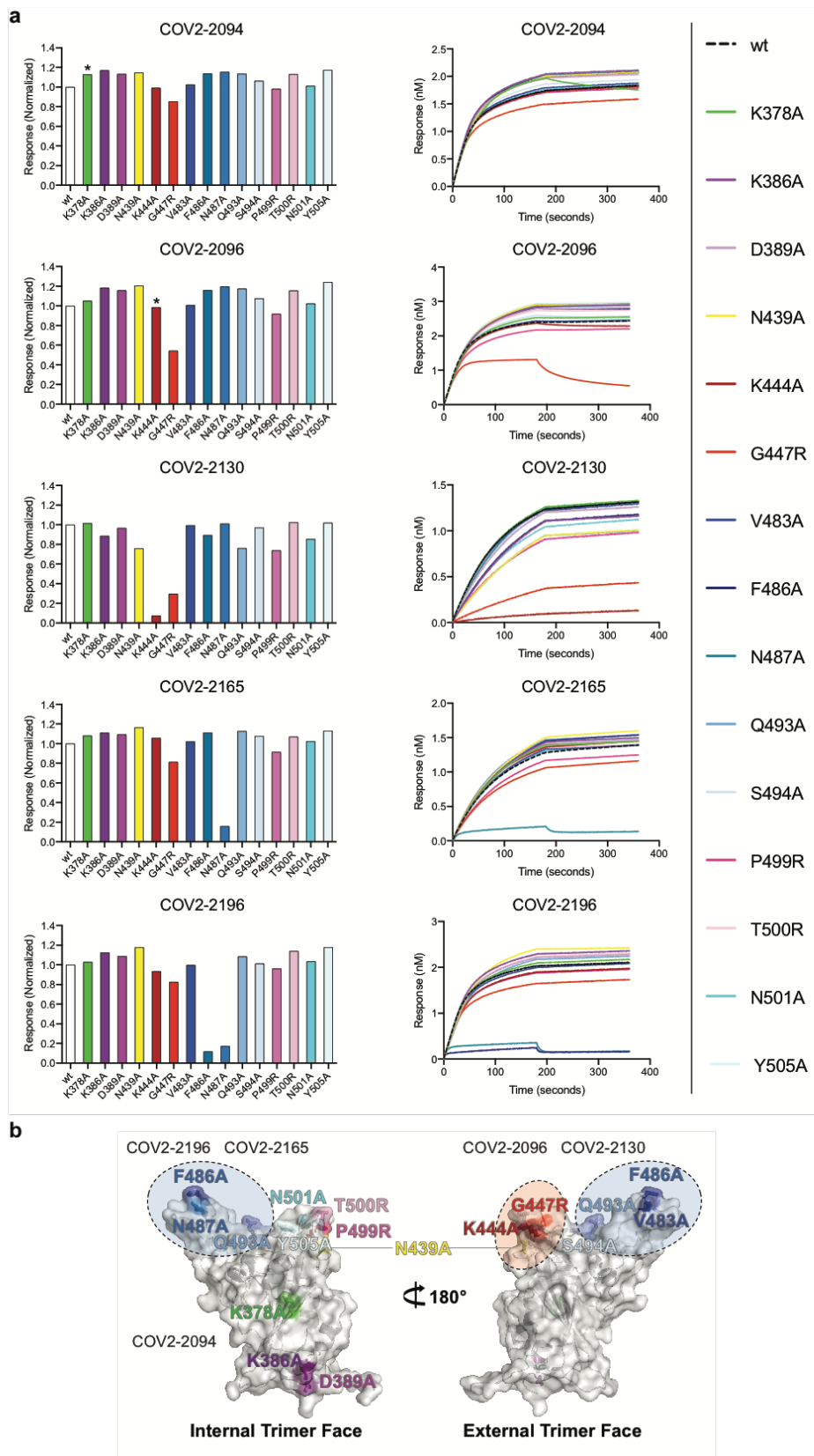
Extended Data Figure 2



Extended Data Figure 3



Extended Data Figure 4



Extended Data Table 1. Neutralization IC₅₀, hACE2 blocking IC₅₀, and EC₅₀ values for binding to S2P_{ecto} or S_{RBD} antigens for mAb panel

MAB	Neutralization IC₅₀, ng/mL	hACE2 blocking IC₅₀, ng/mL	S2P_{ecto} binding EC₅₀, ng/mL	S_{RBD} binding EC₅₀, ng/mL	SARS-CoV S2P_{ecto} binding EC₅₀, ng/mL
COV2-2015	892	68	2.2	5.1	2.7
COV2-2050	80	63	1.7	1.6	—
COV2-2068	478	166	7.4	1.2	—
COV2-2072	26	29	0.8	1.0	—
COV2-2082	204	43	1.1	0.6	19.9
COV2-2094	154	53	1.8	1.4	11.7
COV2-2096	59	67	1.0	1.0	—
COV2-2098	1,029	48	1.3	0.7	—
COV2-2103	1,969	79	2.9	1.1	—
COV2-2113	1,041	60	1.8	0.6	—
COV2-2130	107	61	1.5	0.7	—
COV2-2165	332	62	1.4	0.6	—
COV2-2196	15	48	1.2	1.1	—
COV2-2258	989	76	2.5	1.6	11.2
COV2-2268	371	2,198	91.2	5.3	—
COV2-2308	394	75	2.7	1.9	—
COV2-2353	2,891	1,750	48.0	10.9	—
COV2-2354	1,105	67	2.6	3.5	—
COV2-2381	42	27	0.8	1.0	—
COV2-2489	4,378	—	13.0	—	—
COV2-2479	48	50	0.4	0.3	—
COV2-2499	27	57	1.4	1.1	—
COV2-2539	274	98	1.1	0.7	—
COV2-2562	348	154	1.0	0.6	—
COV2-2676	3,247	—	12.0	—	—
COV2-2677	1,618	107	2.4	0.7	—
COV2-2733	356	71	2.4	0.6	—
COV2-2752	349	53	1.9	0.7	—
COV2-2780	478	10,000	86.0	3.1	—
COV2-2807	907	1,753	13.0	55.1	—
COV2-2812	1,020	1,387	45.4	2.1	—

COV2-2813	555	206	5.3	1.0	—
COV2-2819	114	60	0.9	0.8	—
COV2-2828	100	100	3.2	1.4	338
COV2-2832	70	47	1.3	1.1	—
COV2-2835	190	91	3.4	1.2	—
COV2-2841	1,065	91	3.3	1.5	—
COV2-2919	1,091	1,000	153.0	90.3	—
COV2-2955	127	54	0.8	0.5	—
COV2-3025	37	41	1.1	1.1	—
rCR3022	—	—	10.2	1.1	5.2
r2D22	—	—	—	—	—

— : indicates no detectable binding or neutralization at the highest tested concentration