



## Supplementary Materials for

### **Cross-reactive CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells enhance SARS-CoV-2 immune responses upon infection and vaccination**

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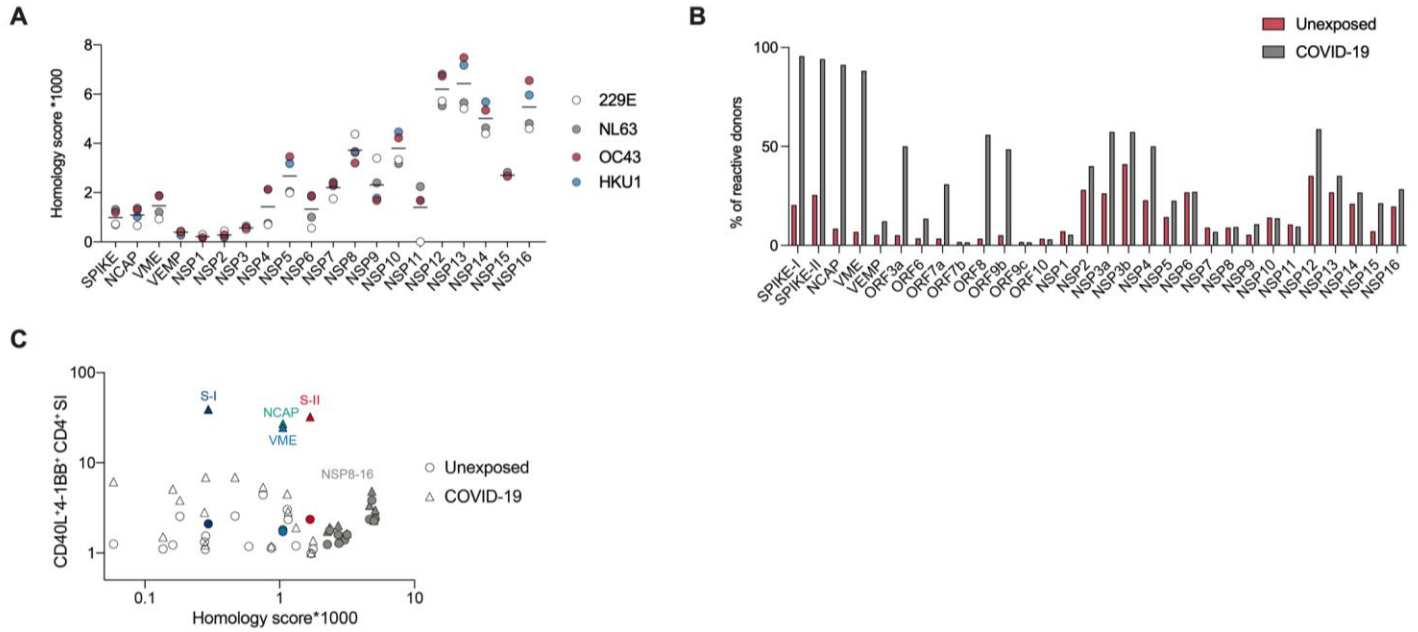
*Science* **374**, eabh1823 (2021)  
DOI: 10.1126/science.abh1823

#### **The PDF file includes:**

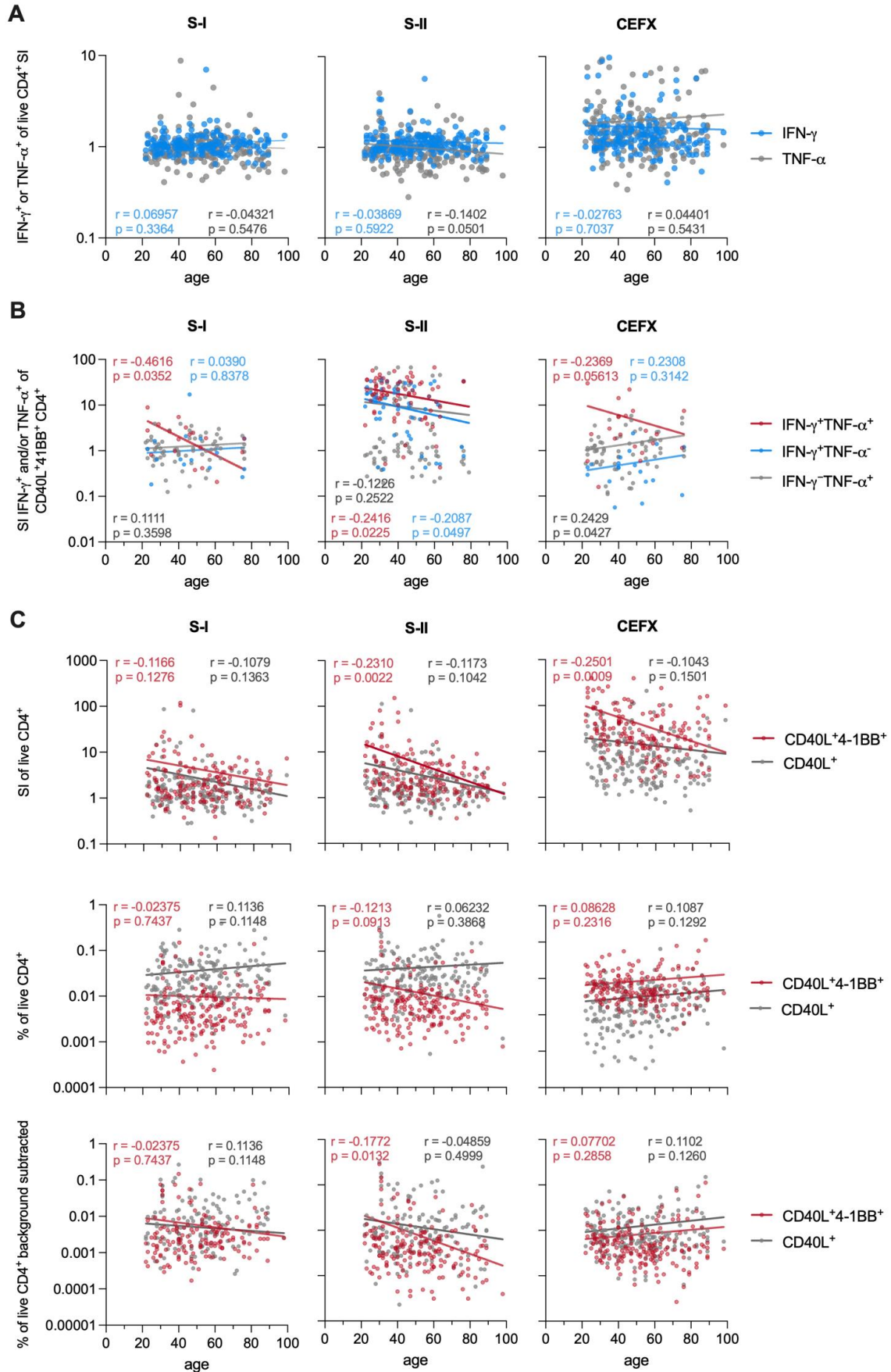
Figs. S1 to S6  
Tables S1 to S3

#### **Other Supplementary Material for this manuscript includes the following:**

MDAR Reproducibility Checklist



**Fig. S1. HCoV homology scores and SARS-CoV-2 peptide pool reactivity**  
**(A)** Similarity between SARS-CoV-2 and the different endemic coronaviruses 229E, NL63, OC43, and HKU1 (isolate N1). Scores were calculated using a PAM30 substitution matrix for all 9-mers of the respective antigen against all 9-mers of the proteome of SARS-CoV-2. The homology score is the percentage of 9-mer pairs with a score above 30. **(B)** Frequency of donors with T cells reactive against the indicated peptide pools in unexposed and COVID-19 convalescents from Fig. 1A with an  $SI \geq 3$ . **(C)** To visualize the probability of homologous epitope recognition, a homology score for the comparison of a SARS-CoV-2 antigen with all four endemic coronaviruses 229E, NL63, OC43, and HKU1 (isolates N1, N2 N5) was plotted against the mean SI of 60 unexposed donors (circles) and 59 COVID-19 convalescents (triangles). For the calculation of the homology score all theoretical possible 9 aa fragments in each peptide of a respective PepMix were scored against all possible 9 aa fragments of the complete proteome of all other HCoVs using a PAM30 substitution matrix. The homology score is the percentage of individual comparisons with a score  $> 30$ .



**Fig. S2. Cytokine characterization and activation molecule profiling of spike-specific CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells by participant age**

(A, B) SI of IFN- $\gamma$ <sup>+</sup> or TNF- $\alpha$ <sup>+</sup> of live CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells by age (A) and (B) SI of IFN- $\gamma$ <sup>+</sup>TNF- $\alpha$ <sup>-</sup>, IFN- $\gamma$ <sup>-</sup>TNF- $\alpha$ <sup>+</sup> and IFN- $\gamma$ <sup>+</sup>TNF- $\alpha$ <sup>+</sup> CD40L<sup>+</sup>41BB<sup>+</sup> CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells after stimulation of PBMCs with SARS-CoV-2 S-I, SARS-CoV-2 S-II, or CEFX in  $n=568$  unexposed donors and  $n=174$  COVID-19 convalescents. (C) SI of live CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells (upper row), frequencies of live CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells (middle row), and background (unstimulated control)-subtracted frequencies of live CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells (lower row) stimulated with S-I, S-II or CEFX and gated for CD40L<sup>+</sup>4-1BB<sup>+</sup> or CD40L<sup>+</sup> expression.

A, B, C: Pearson correlation.

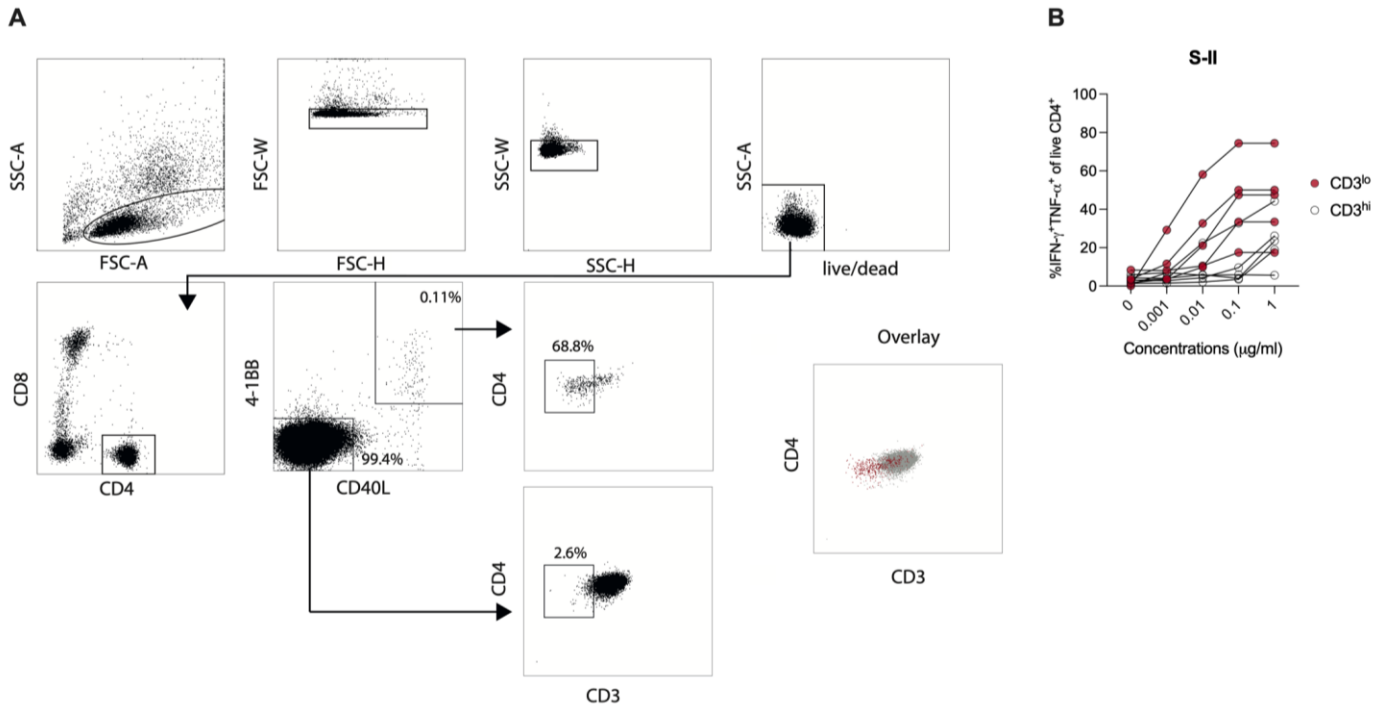


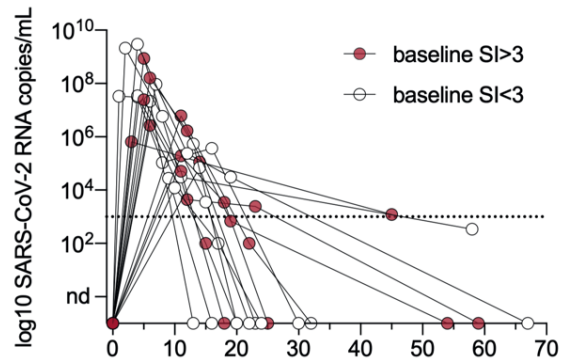
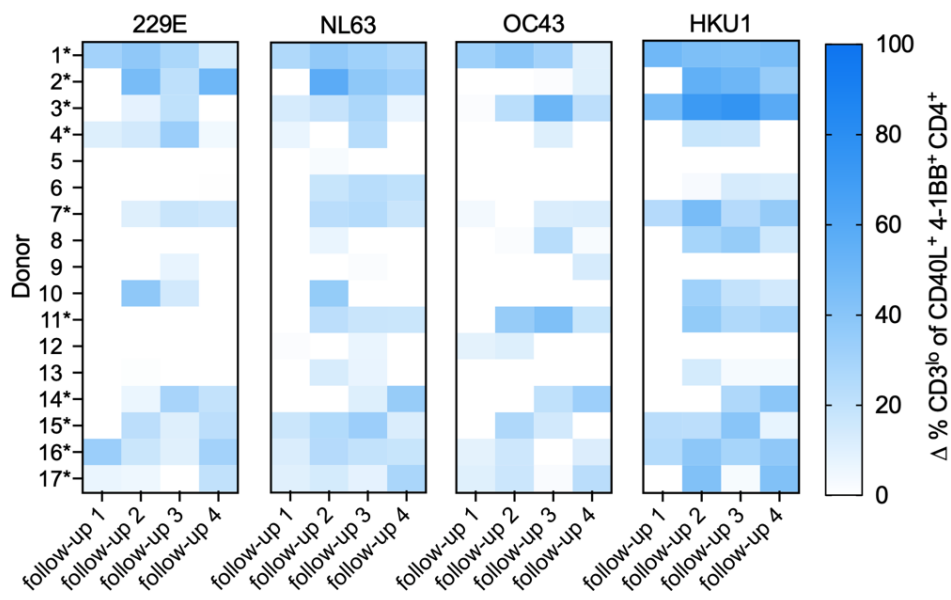
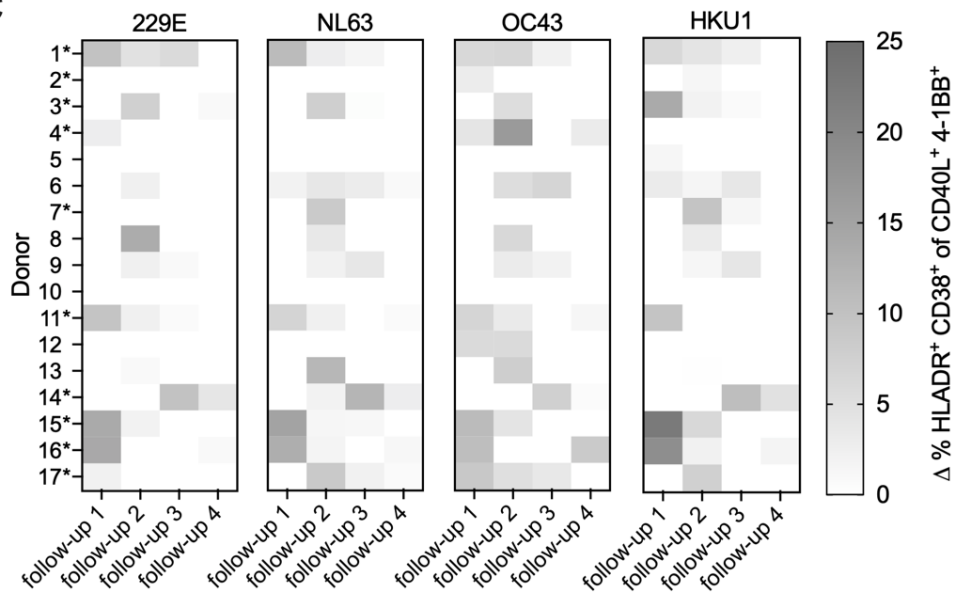
Fig. S3. CD3<sup>lo</sup> gating in flow cytometry displays functional avidity.

**(A)** Representative gating strategy for CD3<sup>lo</sup> cells within non-reactive CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells and S-II-reactive CD40L<sup>+</sup>4-1BB<sup>+</sup> CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells. Cells were pre-gated on live, doublet-free CD4<sup>+</sup> lymphocytes. **(B)** S-II-reactive CD3<sup>lo</sup> and CD3<sup>hi</sup> CD40L<sup>+</sup>4-1BB<sup>+</sup> CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells were sorted and expanded, respectively, and restimulated with indicated concentrations of S-II and the frequencies of IFN- $\gamma$ <sup>+</sup>TNF- $\alpha$ <sup>+</sup> CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells measured.



**Fig. S4. Identification of S816-830 by narrowing down the sequence regions mapped in SARS-CoV-2 peptide pools that exhibited highest T cell cross-reactivity.**

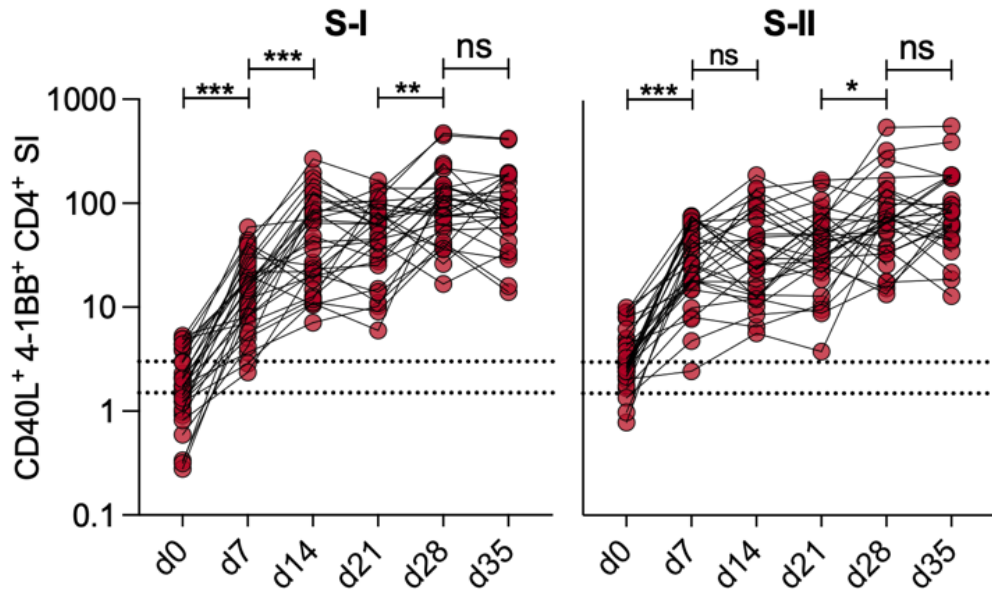
(A) Expanded SARS-CoV-2 S-I- or S-II specific CD40L<sup>+</sup>4-1BB<sup>+</sup> CD4<sup>+</sup> short-term-culture T cells were restimulated with different matrix pools in the presence autologous feeder cells and the frequency of CD40L<sup>+</sup>4-1BB<sup>+</sup> reactive cells determined. The cut-off is set at 0.01 based on unstimulated controls. (B) Expanded SARS-CoV-2 S-I- or S-II reactive CD40L<sup>+</sup>4-1BB<sup>+</sup> CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells were restimulated with single peptide candidates determined from matrix stimulation (shown in A) in the presence of autologous feeder cells and the frequency CD40L<sup>+</sup>4-1BB<sup>+</sup> reactive CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells was determined. The cut-off is set at 0.5 based on unstimulated controls. (C) Position of single peptides 204 and 205 (yellow) in sequence overlay of the known 7 human coronaviruses. Color code indicates homology: black: identical amino acid; gray: conservative amino acid replacement. (D) Identification of the dominant peptide at the 204 to 205 sequence intersection. The number behind the underline character indicates the number of amino acids by which the 15-mer was shifted towards the C-terminus beginning with the sequence of 204 and ending with the sequence of 205. A representative selection of donors who displayed an SI<sub>≥</sub>3 in one or more stimulations is shown. (E, F) MHC-II HLA binding prediction of HLA-DPA1\*01:03/DPB1\*02:01, HLA-DPA1\*01:03/DPB1\*04:01 and HLA-DPA1\*01:03/DPB1\*04:02 with S816-830 and derived fragments (E) or HCoV-derived homologous peptides and fragments thereof (F).

**A****B****C**



**Fig. S5. SARS-CoV-2 RNA concentration kinetics and HCoV-reactive T cell characteristics upon SARS-CoV- infection.**

(A) Viral RNA copies per mL of diluted swab material at indicated time points. The dotted line indicates the limit of quantification (nd = not detected). Donors with an  $SI \geq 3$  for SARS-CoV-2 S-II at baseline are represented as red circles, individuals with an  $SI < 3$  are shown as white circles. (B, C) Heatmaps show the delta ( $\Delta$ ) frequency of  $CD3^{lo}$  (B) and the  $\Delta$  frequency of  $HLADR^+CD38^+$  cells (C) among  $CD40L^+4-1BB^+CD4^+$  T cells after stimulation with S-II pools of the indicated HCoVs.  $\Delta$  represents the change of the parameter at the given time point relative to baseline (i.e., white depicts no increase). "\*" identifies S816-830 peptide responders.



**Fig. S6. Individual T cell responses to vaccination.**

Response kinetics of CD40L<sup>+</sup>4-1BB<sup>+</sup> CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells in individual vaccinees upon stimulation with SARS-CoV-2 S-I or S-II, as shown in Fig. 6B. \* $P < 0.05$ , \*\* $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ , and ns for  $P > 0.05$  (paired Student's  $t$  test). Secondary vaccination occurred on day 21.

**Table S1. Donor characteristics.**

Cohort	Subcohort	Number donors	Age mean (St.d.)	Age range	Gender (f/m)	ICU	Hospitalization	Mild/asymptomatic	Measurement day p.s.o. mean (St.d.)	Measurement day p.s.o. range	Figure(s)
<b>Orfeome</b>	COVID-19 convalescents	59	50.6 (15.0)	21-79	24/35	20	17	22	152 (57)	17-262	Fig. 1, S1
	Unexposed	60	45.7 (16.1)	25-76	36/24	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Basic CCC</b>	COVID-19 WHO 1-2	133	43.8 (13.6)	18-78	85/48	-	-	133	128 (74)	21-304	Fig. 2, 3, S3
	COVID-19 WHO 3-4	19	53.1 (12.8)	31-75	7/12	-	19	-	137 (41)	50-214	
	COVID-19 WHO 5-7	22	59.2 (13.3)	27-79	6/16	22	-	-	143 (59)	61-229	
	Unexposed	568	47.5 (11.8)	18-98	439/129	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Other pathogen pools</b>											Fig. 2
	Young (<30)	20	23.5 (2.4)	20-29	11/9	-	-	-	-	-	
	Old (>65)	19	70.4 (3.8)	65-76	11/8	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Follow-up</b>											Fig. 5
	COVID-19 convalescents	17	39.2 (10.8)	22-58	11/6			17	see Table 2	see Table 2	
<b>Vaccination</b>											
	Volunteers	31	40.9 (11.5)	20-67	12/17	-	-	-	-	-	Fig. 6, S5

p.s.o.=post symptom onset

**Table S2. Characteristics of the follow-up donors.**

Donor	Gender	Age	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Symptoms	Comorbidities	BL %CD 4 <sup>+</sup>	BL S-I SI	BL S-II SI	day BL	day FU1	day FU2	day FU 3	day FU4
A	m	30	22.9	Fatigue. headache. cough. fever. nausea	Allergies. asthma	48.0	1.1	5.0	-76	6	12	19	54
B	f	47	33.2	Cough. loss of taste and smell. body ace	Allergies	53.8	0.5	1.6	-110	-	15	22	29
C	m	31	25.5	Fatigue. headache. cough. fever. loss of taste and smell. dermatological symptoms. body ace	-	47.8	3.1	1.9	-32	8	15	22	35
D	f	31	34.8	Fatigue. headache. cough. fever. loss of taste and smell. nausea. diarrhea. body ache	Allergies. migraine. bronchial hyperreactivity	55.6	2.0	2.1	-39	4	12	19	67
E	f	40	32	Fatigue. headache. cough. fever. loss of taste and smell. nausea. diarrhea. dermatological symptoms	Allergies. asthma. migraine. Hashimoto-Thyroiditis	61.1	1.6	1.3	-64	7	13	20	48
F	f	47	33.1	Cough. fever. nausea. diarrhea	-	73.4	3.5	6.4	-73	5	11	18	54
G	f	31	31.1	Fatigue. headache. cough. fever. body ace	Acne vulgaris. pseudotumor cerebri	66.0	1.1	1.3	-82	4	11	18	58
H	f	31	27.1	Fatigue. headache. loss of taste and smell. body ace	Thyroidectomy	67.0	2.9	0.8	-38	-	10	24	53
I	f	22	28.5	Fatigue. headache. cough. fever. loss of taste and smell. nausea. diarrhea. dermatological symptoms. body ace	Gastritis	60.3	2.5	5.9	-37	-	11	25	54
J	f	37	20.3	Fatigue. headache. cough. loss of taste and smell. nausea	Allergies	56.4	1.0	1.4	-19	-	14	23	71
K	m	52	29.2	Fatigue. headache. cough. fever. body ace	Allergies	66.8	4.0	5.0	-39	-	11	22	58
L	f	55	37.7	Fatigue. headache. cough. fever. loss of taste and smell. nausea. dermatological symptoms. body ace	Allergies. asthma. hypertonia	78.8	2.3	2.7	-13	9	16	23	57
M	m	58	24.2	Headache. fever. loss of taste and smell	Cardiac arrhythmia	56.9	0.3	3.0	-82	5	12	23	56
N	m	53	23.5	Fatigue. headache. cough. loss of taste and smell. body ace	-	66.4	4.3	5.8	-56	3	14	-	45
O	f	40	22.1	Fatigue. headache. fever. diarrhea. dermatological symptoms. body ace	-	59.7	1.2	2.3	-84	6	13	20	42
P	f	31	21.1	Fatigue. headache. loss of smell. dermatological symptoms. body ace	-	61.4	3.3	3.8	-111	7	15	20	42
Q	m	31	24.2	Loss of taste and smell	Arterial hypertonia	53.0	1.0	2.0	-68	8	16	30	66

BL=baseline, FU=follow-up. None of the donors required hospitalization.

**Table S3. List of antibodies used for flow cytometric analyses.**

Marker	Fluorochrome	Clone	Manufacturer	RRID	Titration
<b>CD3</b>	FITC	REA613	Miltenyi	AB_2725966	1:50
<b>CD4</b>	VioGreen	REA623	Miltenyi	AB_2726041	1:50
<b>CD8</b>	VioBlue	REA734	Miltenyi	AB_2659239	1:50
<b>HLA-DR</b>	PerCpVio700	REA805	Miltenyi	AB_2652172	1:50
<b>CD38</b>	APC	REA671	Miltenyi	AB_2726164	1:100
<b>CD40L</b>	PEVio770	REA238	Miltenyi	AB_2751209	1:50
<b>4-1BB</b>	PE	REA765	Miltenyi	AB_2654986	1:50
<b>IFN-<math>\gamma</math></b>	A700	B27	Biologend	AB_961351	1:100
<b>TNF-<math>\alpha</math></b>	BV605	MAb11	Biologend	AB_11203719	1:100