SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

DNA manipulations- For the construction of the *S. pyogenes* mutants, DNA manipulations including DNA preparation, amplification, digestion, ligation, purification, analysis by agarose gel electrophoresis and Southern blot analysis were performed according to standard techniques (1,2). Synthetic oligonucleotides (VBC-Biotech Services, Vienna, Austria) were: OLEC120, AATATTGGATCCTCGTTCAGCACAATCTATTGCGTC; OLEC123, AATCTAGAATTCTTCATTGAGACTCCTTAGTTC; OLEC143, TTTGAAGGTACCAAGGTTTACCTCCTTATCTAATAAG; OLEC144, TTAGTTGGTACCTAATCTATTTAGCATCTCTATGTG; OLEC248, TACTTAGGATCCTGAGTATTATCGGATGTACGTTAG; OLEC249, AACTAAGGTACCGTCCTTCATACCTTTTTATCATTC; OLEC250, TACTTAGGTACCTAGGACTGGTTCAAGAGATAAGCA; OLEC251, TATAGTGAATTCCAAACTGTTTCAGCATACGAAGTG. Sequencing reactions were performed at VBC-Biotech Services.

Quantification of Mx2 and IFN-β gene expression by quantitative RT-PCR (qRT-PCR)- cDNA was used to amplify Mx2, IFN-β and GAPDH (housekeeping gene used for normalization) qRT-PCR was run on iCycler (BioRad, Hercules, CA, USA) using cDNA. The following primers were used: for Mx2, Mx2-fwd 5` -CCAGTTCCTCTCAGTCCCAAGATT -3`, and Mx2-rev 5`-TACTGGATGATCAAGGGAACGTGG -3`; for IFN-β, IFN-beta-fwd 5`-TCAGAATGAGTGGTGGTTGC -3` and IFN-beta-rev 5` GACCTTTCAAATGCAGTAG ATTCA 3`; for GAPDH, the housekeeping gene used for normalization, GAPDH-fwd 5'-CATGGCCTTCCGTGTTCCTA -3', and GAPDH-rev 5'- GCGGCACGTCAGATCCA -3'. Amplification of DNA was monitored by SYBR Green (Molecular Probes, Eugene, OR, USA) (3).

References for supplementary information

1. Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E. F. & Maniatis, T. (1989) *Molecular cloning: A laboratory manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press
2. Mangold, M., Siller, M., Roppenser, B., Vlaminckx, B. J., Penfound, T. A., Klein, R., Novak, R., Novick, R. P., and Charpentier, E. (2004) *Molecular microbiology* 53, 1515-1527
3. Morrison, T. B., Weis, J. J., and Wittwer, C. T. (1998) *Biotechniques* 24, 954-958, 960, 962