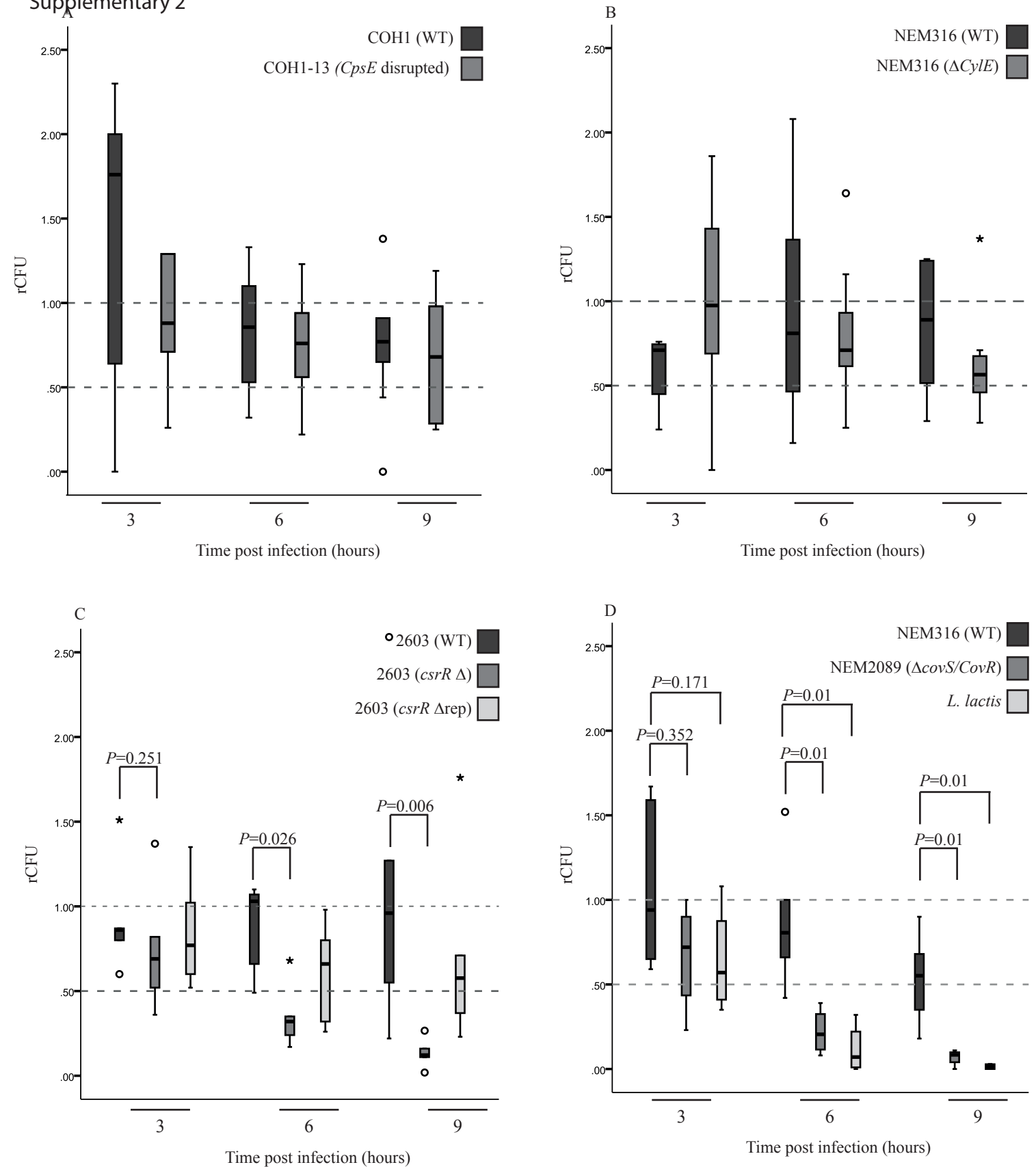


Supplementary 2



The two component regulatory system CovS/CovR, but neither the capsule or *cylE* operon are required for the prolonged intracellular survival of GBS in J774 cells. At three hours, six hours and nine hours the strains deficient in the capsule and β haemolysin/cytolysin show similar survival to the parental strain (panel A and B). The two strains deleted either in the CovS/CovR (Panel C) or just the CovR element of the TCS (Panel D) show decreased survival compared to isogenic parents at six hours and nine hours post infection but not at three hours, this is also seen with the non pathogenic organism *L. lactis*. (Mann-Whitney U, $N > 4$, $p < 0.05$)

