



**Supplemental Figure 1** | Non-polarized epithelial cells (HeLa cells) and polarized epithelial cells (T-84 cells) were pre-treated with MβCD and infected with *C. jejuni* for 6 h. The number of intracellular bacteria was measured by a gentamycin protection assay (A, C, E). The level of intracellular cholesterol was measured using a cholesterol assay kit (B, D, F). (A, B) HeLa cells pre-treated with 1-10 mM MβCD for 1 h. (C, D) HeLa cells pretreated with 10 mM MβCD for 1 h or MβCD-treated cells subsequently supplemented with 150 μg/μl cholesterol for 1 h prior to infection. (E, F) T84 cells pretreated with 1-10 mM MβCD for 1 h. Results are shown as the mean ± SD; n=4. Significant difference from the control or MβCD treated group are shown: N.S.; not significant; \*, P < 0.05; \*\*, P < 0.01.