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Supplementary Figure 1: Proof of principle of SARS-CoV-2 virus 3C-like protease incorporation into VSV genomes. a: Genome scheme of VSV vector with nucleoprotein (N), phosphoprotein (P), matrix protein (M), glycoprotein (G), reporter (rep) and polymerase / large protein (L). Replacement of the intergenic region (IGR) between the reporters GFP or luciferase (rep) and L with insertion of SARS-CoV-2 3C-like protease. b: Principle of 3CLpro-Off construct. The SARS-CoV-2 protease releases L in the absence of an inhibitor. The VSV replication and transcription complexes form, producing a reporter gene (rep). Adding a protease inhibitor stalls L. c: Viral reporter genes GFP and *firefly* luciferase expression is blocked in the presence of more than 1 μ M of the bona fide protease inhibitor GC376. Control vectors cannot be regulated by addition of GC376. d: Genome scheme of wild-type VSV vector and VSV with intramolecular insertion of the SARS-CoV-2 protease into P. e: Principle of 3CLpro-On construct. The SARS-CoV-2 protease disintegrates P in the absence of a protease inhibitor. By adding a protease inhibitor, the construct is stabilized and the viral replication and transcription complexes can be formed. f: Viral reporter gene GFP expression is facilitated in the presence of more than 1 μ M of the bona fide protease inhibitor GC376. Control vectors cannot be regulated by addition of GC376. g. Fluorescent signal stability over continuous passaging. BHK21 3CLpro-On expressing cells and its mutated constructs red fluorescent signal in the presence of protease inhibitors (2 independent wells were imaged from each passage, images were enhanced linearly in contrast and brightness to visualize spot signal at low magnification). h: Spot count data for selected read-out days for all four 3CLpro-On expressing cell lines over the course of one month. Multiple data points were collected the same day (day 12 to 39) and separated to highlight them. Positive and negative controls are colored in green and red, respectively.



Supplementary Figure 2: a: Schemes of 3CLpro-Off in response to different inhibitors. **b:** 3CLpro-Off and control construct expressing VSV-L in response to different Boceprevir concentrations (n=3 biologically independent replicates per condition). **c:** Anti-GFP immunoblots of cells infected with VSV expressing GFP or VSV expressing 3CLpro-Off treated with either 50 μM GC376, 100 μM Boceprevir or DMSO. **d:** Fluorescence images of cells infected with VSV-3CLpro-Off with 50 μM GC376 or 100 μM Boceprevir. **e:** Mouse α-Actin blot of unstripped rabbit GFP/YFP blot of cell lysates of cells treated with either 50 μM GC376, 100 μM Boceprevir or DMSO. **f:** Blot with mouse α-GFP antibody from Roche and corresponding unstripped mouse α-Actin blot loaded with cell lysates from cells treated with either 50 μM GC376, 100 μM Boceprevir or DMSO. **g:** Mouse α-Actin blot of mouse α-GFP antibody from Roche VSV-GFP blot loaded with cell lysates from cells treated with either 50 μM GC376, 100 μM Boceprevir or DMSO. **g:** Mouse α-Actin blot of mouse α-GFP antibody from Roche VSV-GFP blot loaded with cell lysates from cells treated with either 50 μM GC376, 100 μM Boceprevir or DMSO. **g:** Mouse α-Actin blot of mouse α-GFP antibody from Roche VSV-GFP blot loaded with cell lysates from cells treated with either 50 μM GC376, 100 μM Boceprevir or DMSO. **g:** Mouse α-Actin blot of mouse α-GFP antibody from Roche VSV-GFP blot loaded with cell lysates from cells treated with either 50 μM GC376, 100 μM Boceprevir or DMSO.

Supplemental table 1: Additional protease sequences tested in this project

Rousettus bat coronavirus HKU9 (NCBI Reference Sequence: NC_009021.1)

SVASAALQAGLTRMAHPSGLVEPCLVKVNYGSMTLNGIWLDNFVICPRHVMCSRDELANPDYPRLSMRAANYDFHVS QNGHNIRVIGHTMEGSLLKLTVDVNNPKTPAYSFIRVSTGQAMSLLACYDGLPTGVYTCTLRSNGTMRASFLCGSCGSP GFVMNGKEVQFCYLHQLELPNGTHTGTDFSGVFYGPFEDKQVPQLAAPDCTITVNVLAWLYAAVLSGENWFLTKSSISP AEFNNCAVKYMCQSVTSESLQVLQPLAAKTGISVERMLSALKVLLSAGFCGRTIMGSCSLEDEHTPYDIGRQMLGVKLQ GKFQSMFR

Human coronavirus 229E (NCBI Reference Sequence: KF293666.1)

VSYGSTLQAGLRKMAQPSGFVEKCVVRVCYGNTVLNGLWLGDIVYCPRHVIASNTTSAIDYDHEYSIMRLHNFSIISGTA FLGVVGATMHGVTLKIKVSQTNMHTPRHSFRTLKSGEGFNILACYDGCAQGVFGVNMRTNWTIRGSFINGACGSPGY NLKNGEVEFVYMHQIELGSGSHVGSSFDGVMYGGFEDQPNLQVESANQMLTVNVVAFLYAAILNGCTWWLKGEKLF VEHYNEWAQANGFTAMNGEDAFSILAAKTGVCVERLLHAIQVLNNGFGGKQILGYSSLNDEFSINEVVKQMFGVNLQS GKTTSMF

Human coronavirus NL63 (NCBI Reference Sequence: YP_010229075.1)

ISYNSTLQSGLKKMAQPSGCVERCVVRVCYGSTVLNGVWLGDTVTCPRHVIAPSTTVLIDYDHAYSTMRLHNFSVSHNG VFLGVVGVTMHGSVLRIKVSQSNVHTPKHVFKTLKPGDSFNILACYEGIASGVFGVNLRTNFTIKGSFINGACGSPGYNV RNDGTVEFCYLHQIELGSGAHVGSDFTGSVYGNFDDQPSLQVESANLMLSDNVVAFLYAALLNGCRWWLCSTRVNVD GFNEWAMANGYTSVSSVECYSILAAKTGVSVEQLLASIQHLHEGFGGKNILGYSSLCDEFTLAEVVKQMYGVNLQSGKVI FGL

Middle East respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus (MERS) (NCBI Reference Sequence: KF600615.1) SITSGVLQSGLVKMSHPSGDVEACMVQVTCGSMTLNGLWLDNTVWCPRHVMCPADQLSDPNYDALLISMTNHSFSV QKHIGAPANLRVVGHAMQGTLLKLTVDVANPSTPAYTFTTVKPGAAFSVLACYNGRPTGTFTVVMRPNYTIKGSFLCGS CGSVGYTKEGSVINFCYMHQMELANGTHTGSAFDGTMYGAFMDKQVHQVQLTDKYCSVNVVAWLYAAILNGCAWF VKPNRTSVVSFNEWALANQFTEFVGTQSVDMLAVKTGVAIEQLLYAIQQLYTGFQGKQILGSTMLEDEFTPEDVNMQI MGVVMQSGVRKVTY

Mouse Hepatitis Virus (MHV) (NCBI Reference Sequence: NP_045298.1)

SVTTSFLQSGIVKMVSPTSKVEPCIVSVTYGNMTLNGLWLDDKVYCPRHVICSSADMTDPDYPNLLCRVTSSDFCVMSG RMSLTVMSYQMQGCQLVLTVTLQNPNTPKYSFGVVKPGETFTVLAAYNGRPQGAFHVTLRSSHTIKGSFLCGSCGSVG YVLTGDSVRFVYMHQLELSTGCHTGTDFSGNFYGPYRDAQVVQLPVQDYTQTVNVVAWLYAAIFNRCNWFVQSDSCS LEEFNVWAMTNGFSSIKADLVLDALASMTGVTVEQVLAAIKRLHSGFQGKQILGSCVLEDETPSDVYQQLAGVKLQSKR TRVIK

Poliovirus (NCBI Reference Sequence: ACH87554.1)

TIRTAKVQGPGFDYAVAMAKRNIVTATTSKGEFTMLGVHDNVAILPTHASPGESIVIDGKEVEILDAKALEDQAGTNLEIT IITLKRNEKFRDIRPHIPTQITETNDGVLIVNTSKYPNMYVPVGAVTEQGYLNLGGRQTARTLMYNFPTRAGQCGGVITCT GKVIGMHVGGNGSHGFAAALKRSYFTQSQGEIQWMRP

SARS-CoV-1 (NCBI Reference Sequence: AAP82976.1)

SITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQVTCGTTTLNGLWLDDTVYCPRHVICTAEDMLNPNYEDLLIRKSNHSFLVQAG NVQLRVIGHSMQNCLLRLKVDTSNPKTPKYKFVRIQPGQTFSVLACYNGSPSGVYQCAMRPNHTIKGSFLNGSCGSVGF NIDYDCVSFCYMHHMELPTGVHAGTDLEGKFYGPFVDRQTAQAAGTDTTITLNVLAWLYAAVINGDRWFLNRFTTTLN DFNLVAMKYNYEPLTQDHVDILGPLSAQTGIAVLDMCAALKELLQNGMNGRTILGSTILEDEFTPFDVVRQCSGVTFQG KFKKIVK

SARS-CoV-2 (NCBI Reference Sequence: NC_045512.2)

ITSAVLQSGFRKMAFPSGKVEGCMVQVTCGTTTLNGLWLDDVVYCPRHVICTSEDMLNPNYEDLLIRKSNHNFLVQAG NVQLRVIGHSMQNCVLKLKVDTANPKTPKYKFVRIQPGQTFSVLACYNGSPSGVYQCAMRPNFTIKGSFLNGSCGSVGF NIDYDCVSFCYMHHMELPTGVHAGTDLEGNFYGPFVDRQTAQAAGTDTTITVNVLAWLYAAVINGDRWFLNRFTTTL NDFNLVAMKYNYEPLTQDHVDILGPLSAQTGIAVLDMCASLKELLQNGMNGRTILGSALLEDEFTPFDVVRQCSGVTFQ SAVKRTI Consensus Poliovirus Human coronavirus 229E Human coronavirus NL63 Rousettus bat coronavirus HKU9 SARS-CoV-1 SARS-CoV-2 Mouse hepatitis virus MERS

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ŚITSAVLQSĠLRKMAXPSGŔVEXCMVQVTÝGSTTLNGLWĹDDTVYCPRH TATTSKGEFTMLGVH-DNVALLPTH VVRVCYGNTVLNGLWLGDIVYCPRH IRTAKVQ KR Α GLRKMA PSG VE C SGL KMA PSG VE C GL MA PSG VE C 10 V V YGST LNG WL DTV CPRH V V YGS TLNG WLD V CPRH MVQVT G TTLNGLWLDDTVYCPRH LQSGLKKMA S SAALQAGL CMVQVTCG **ITSAVLQSG RKMA PSGKVE** S GCMVQVTCG I T S A V L Q S G F R K M A F P S G K V E TTLNGLWLDDVVYCPRH LQSG VKMVSPT **KVEPC** VSVTYG MTLNGLWLDDKVYCPRH S /**T** S I T S G V L Q S G L V K M S H P S G D V E A C M V Q V T C G S M T L N G L W L D N T V W C P R H 50 70 VICSSXDMLXPDYXXLLIRMXNHNFSV---XXGXXXLRVXGHTMQGCLL V G MRLHNFS VIASNT DY _ _ _ ATMHGVTL VTMHGSVL G 6 VVG LHNFSV---NYDFHV---STTVL LGVVG VIAP DY Μ ACSR PDY RVGHTMG SLL V SMRA NY L VIC DML PNY LLIR NH F V - - -AG LRVIGHSMQNCLL SDML V - - -VIC PNY LLIR NHNF G LRV GHSMQNC VL VICSSADM VMCPADQLS LTV PDY LL CRV DFC V - - -MQGC QL SG PNY ALLISMTNHSFSVQKHI LRVVGHAMQGTLL 110 100 120 130 140 K L K V D X X N P K T P K Y X F X X X K P G Q T F S V L A C Y N G X P S G V F X V X M R P N X T I F RP TLKR PN G G G F LACY G PG F LACY G GQ S LACY G PGQTFSVLACYNG GVFGV NMHTP KSG MRN TI ΚI ΚV F NVHTPK KPG SGVF ΚV F V NPKTPAY PTGV KLTVD F RSNG Т PSGV LKVD NPKTPKY F MRPNTI PGQTFSVLACYNG KPG TF VLA YNG KLKVD NPKTPKY F PSGV MRPN TI NPNTPKY F RP QGAFHV ТΙ R LV GTFTVVMRPNYTI KLTVDVA NPSTPA YF KPGAAFSVLACYNGRP 150 160 170 180 190 K G Ś F L NG S C G S V Ġ Y N J D G – D X V X F C Y MHQME L P T G X H T G T D F X G X F Y G P GYLNLGGROT G MY G G GSF NG CGS GYN KGSF NG CGS GYN SFL GSCGS G F H∨G YMHQ EL F VE G G N-G ΥG KGSF NG CGS GYN - V F YMHQ EL G KGSF NG CGS GYN V FCY HQ EL G SFL GSCGS G G - V FCY HQ ELP G KGSFLNGSCGSVG N D -D V FCYMH MELPTG SDF YG HVG G FYGP HTGTDFSG FYGP HAGTD G KGSFLNGSCGSVG N D – D V KGSFL GSCGSVGV L G–D V KGSFL GSCGSVGV L G– SFCYMHHMELPTG FYGP HAGTD G SVRF VYMHQLELSTG HTGTDF G FYGP G-SVINFCYMHQMELANG THTGSAF G MYGA 210 230 200 220 240 FXDXQVXQVAXTDTTITVNVVAWLYAAXLNGCRWFLXXFXTSXXXFNEW TCTGKV VE SANOMETVNVVAFLYAA I LNGCTWELKGE VE SANOMES DNVVAFLYAA LNGCRWELCST LAAPDCTITVNVLAWLYAA LSGENWFLTKS QVESANQM F D YNEW QVE FNEW D FFFF QVP S D FN Q QAAGTDTTITLNVLAWLYAA QAAGTDTTITVNVLAWLYAA NGDRWFL VRF FN D Q T F FΝ DRQ AQ NGDRWFL Т WF QVVQ DYTOTVNVVAWLYAA S FNVW D NRC F D (QVHQVQLTDKYCSVNVVAWLYAA | LNGCAWF ΤS FNEW 250 260 290 280 AMXNĠXTSXTXDHV--LXPLAAKTĠVAVEQXLAAİKX-LHNGFNĠKXIL MHVGGNG LAAKTGVCVERLLHAI LAAKTGVSVEQLLASI -LNNGF NGET - - F Α GGK AMANGYTS -LHEGFGGKNIL - -QVLQPLAAKTG S SVE LSALK VLL VΤ AGFCG A Т DHVDILGPLSAQTGIAV AM Т AAK LQNGMNG 1 L AM Т DHVDILG PLSAQTGIAV A Κ E L L Q NGMNG ΙL S ALASMTGVTVEQVLAAIK NG V - - L R-LHSGF I L AM D GK --VDMLAVKTGVA | EQLLYAIQQ-LY NQFTEF ALA GF GK 2 I L 300 310 320 326 GSXSLEDEFTPXDVVRQMSGVXLQSXXXXXIK FT 0 SLNDEFS SLOEFT SLEDE TP G VVKQMFGVNLQS VVKQMYGVNLQS G GRQMLGVKLQ GS VD I LEDEFTP DVVRQCSGV GS 0 K GS LEDEFTP DVVRQ SGV QS T GS LEDE TP DV Q GVKLQS TRVIK TMLEDEFTPEDVNMQ I MGVVMQS GS

Supplementary Figure 3: Amino acid sequence alignment of main proteases of Poliovirus, Human coronaviruses 229E and NL63, Rousettus bat coronavirus HKU9, SARS-Cov-1 and -2, mouse hepatitis virus and MERS.

Supplementary Figure 4: Gating on live cells treated with different compounds and infected with VSV- ΔP -dsRed. One representative replicate of 100 and 30 μ M samples are shown. Red dots indicate below cut-off for following dsRed gate. Green dots indicate dsRed positivity in following gate (see also **Figure S5 and 6**).

Supplementary Figure 5: Exemplary FACS read-out and gating strategy of VSV- Δ P-dsRed infected BHK-21 cells treated with 100 μ M PF-07321332. DsRed-A Mean and P1 Events were used for quantitative read-outs. Red dots indicate below cut-off in dsRed gate. Green dots indicate dsRed positive cells.

BD FACSDiva 8.0.1

Supplementary Figure 6: Exemplary FACS read-out and gating strategy of VSV-ΔP-dsRed infected, but untreated BHK-21 cells. DsRed-A Mean and P1 Events were used for quantitative read-outs. Red dots indicate below cut-off in dsRed gate. Green dots indicate dsRed positive cells.

Supplementary Figure 7: Comparison of different fluorescent-based read-out methods with Rousettus bat coronavirus HKU9 main protease gain-of-signal BHK-21 cells (n=3 biologically independent replicates per condition). Representative images of the same 30 μ M GC376 well was chosen for comparison of camera sensitivity between Keyence and BioTek readers.

Supplementary Figure 8: a: Mouse anti-GFP (antibody from Roche) immunoblot of cells infected with VSV expressing GFP or VSV expressing 3CLpro-Off treated with either 50 μ M GC376, 100 μ M Boceprevir or DMSO. **b:** Unstripped mouse anti-actin blot of mouse anti-GFP immunoblot in panel a. **c:** Rabbit anti-GFP/YFP immunoblot of cells infected with VSV expressing 3CLpro-Off treated with either 50 μ M GC376, 100 μ M Boceprevir or DMSO. In the left side of the blot, 2 lanes were joined for each sample to load a larger sample volume. **d:** Unstripped mouse anti-actin blot of rabbit anti-GFP/YFP immunoblot in panel c. **e:** Mouse anti-GFP (antibody from Roche) immunoblot of cells infected with VSV expressing 3CLpro-Off treated with either 50 μ M GC376, 100 μ M Boceprevir or DMSO. In the left side of the blot, 2 lanes were joined for each sample to load a larger sample volume. **d:** Unstripped mouse anti-actin blot of rabbit anti-GFP/YFP immunoblot in panel c. **e:** Mouse anti-GFP (antibody from Roche) immunoblot of cells infected with VSV expressing 3CLpro-Off treated with either

 μ M GC376, 100 μ M Boceprevir or DMSO. In the left side of the blot, 2 lanes were joined for each sample to load a larger sample volume. **f**: Unstripped mouse anti-actin blot of mouse anti-GFP (Roche) immunoblot in panel e. Dashed rectangles indicate which part of the blots was used for **Supplementary Figure 2**.