

the study ("WT" and "dNSP16"). Viral RNA was reverse-transcribed, PCR-amplified around the site of interest, and Sanger sequenced. (a) Shown are the sequencing traces of the 2-base pair site within codon 130 of NSP16 that was mutated from AT to CG to engineer dNSP16. (b) Validated sequence around the furin cleavage site, including the QTQTN motif, for WT and dNSP16, compared to the published sequence for WA1/2020.

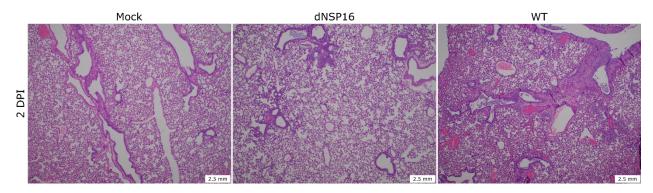


Figure S2. dNSP16 is attenuated *in vivo*. A 100 μL inoculum of PBS (mock) or 10⁴ plaque-forming

units of either dNSP16 or WT was given intranasally to 4- to 5-week-old Syrian hamsters. Shown are

hematoxylin and eosin staining of representative 5 µm-thick sections taken from left lung lobes of animals
 sacrificed at 2 days post-infection (DPI).

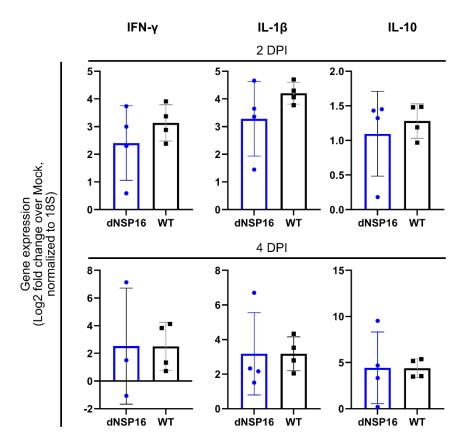


Figure S3. dNSP16 does not drive increased immune gene expression relative to WT. Fold change
(log₂) of expression of the indicated immune genes from lung samples isolated from hamsters infected
with the indicated virus, 2 or 4 days post-infection. For each panel, fold changes from dNSP16 or WT
samples are measured relative to mock samples. Values from individual hamsters are plotted (symbols)
as well as means (bars). Error bars denote standard deviation. All samples were normalized to 18S
expression, used as a reference.

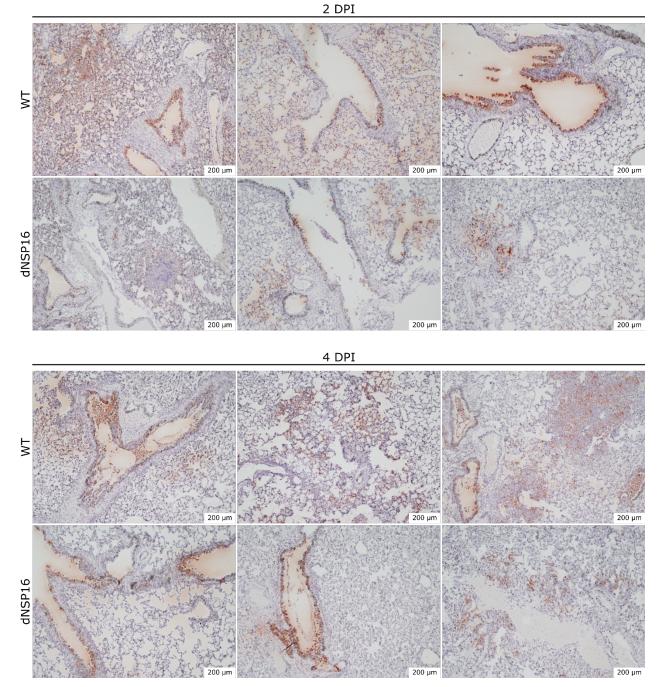


Figure S4. dNSP16 replication is reduced *in vivo*. SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid staining (brown) of
 representative 5 µm-thick sections taken from left lung lobes of mock-, dNSP16, or WT-infected hamsters
 at the indicated day post-infection (DPI).

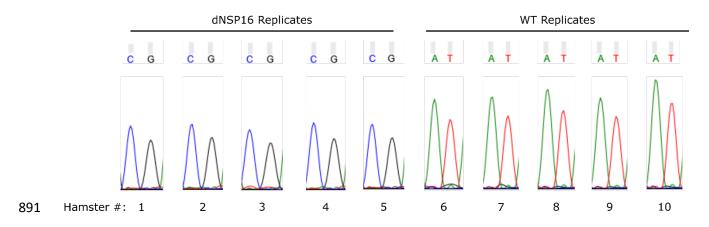
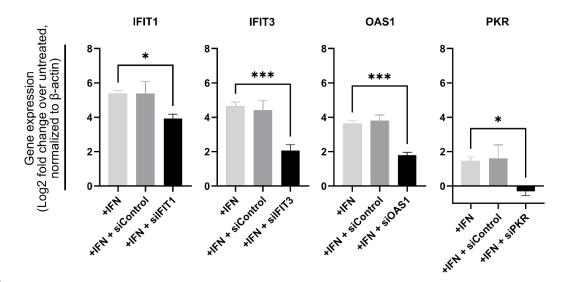


Figure S5. No evidence of reversion of dNSP16 mutation was detected *in vivo*. Viral RNA was
 extracted from the lungs of hamsters infected with either dNSP16 or WT (numbered 1 through 5 for each
 group) and which were sacrificed at 4 days post-infection. Viral RNA was reverse-transcribed, PCR amplified around the site of mutation, and Sanger sequenced. Shown are the sequencing traces of the 2-

base pair site within codon 130 of NSP16 that was mutated from AT to CG to engineer dNSP16.



899Figure S6. Validation of knockdown of immune gene targets in Vero E6 cells.1.25 x 105 Vero E6900cells/well were reverse transfected with 1 pmol of the control or gene-specific siRNA 2 days prior to901harvest and also treated with 100 U IFN-I one day prior to harvest and assessment of gene expression.902Fold change (log2) of gene expression is measured relative to untreated samples (i.e. no IFN-I). All903samples were normalized to β-actin, used as a reference. *p<0.05, ***p<0.005, ns = not significant:</td>904results of one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test (α = 0.05). Means are plotted with error905bars denoting standard deviation. n = 3 biological replicates.

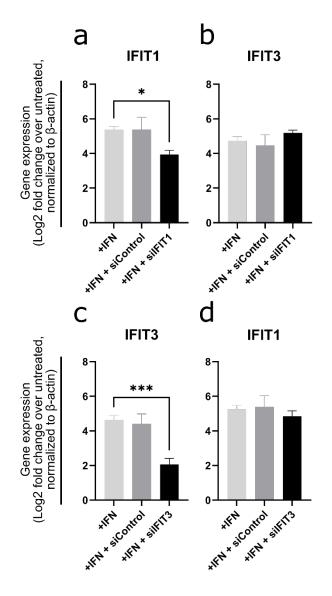
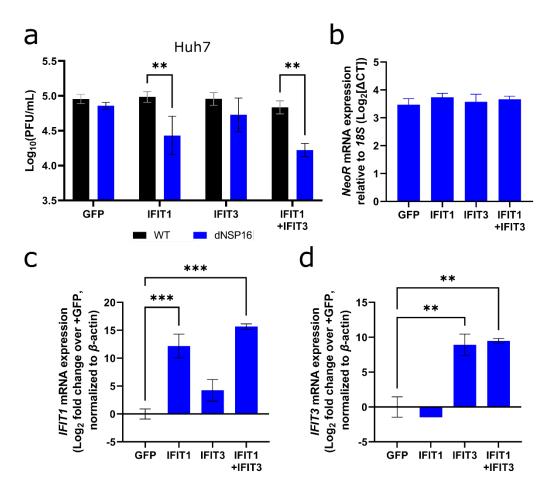
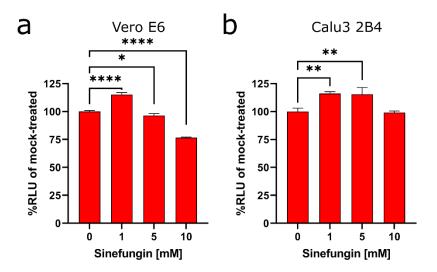


Figure S7. Knockdown of either IFIT1 or IFIT3 is specific. 1.25 x 10⁵ Vero E6 cells/well were reverse 908 909 transfected with 1 pmol/well of either a non-targeting siRNA ("siControl") or with an IFIT1- (a, b) or IFIT3-(c, d) targeting siRNA ("silFIT1" or "silFIT3", respectively), or were seeded without treatment. One day 910 later, cells were treated with 100 U of IFN-I to induce interferon-stimulated genes. The following day, 911 cells were lysed for RNA purification and mRNA quantification via reverse transcription and quantitative 912 913 polymerase chain reaction (PCR). For all panels, gene expression is normalized to β -actin (used as a reference), and fold changes are given relative to untreated controls (i.e. no IFN). p<0.05, resp<0.005, ns = not significant: results of one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test (a = 0.05). Means are 914 915 916 plotted with error bars denoting standard deviation. n = 3 biological replicates.



919 Figure S8. Overexpression of IFIT1 results in attenuation of dNSP16. (a) Replication of WT (black) and dNSP16 (blue) in the context of overexpression of IFIT plasmids. 8.5 x 10⁴ Huh7 cells/well were 920 reverse transfected with 0.8 µg total of plasmid(s) expressing the indicated protein(s) 2 days prior to 921 infection, multiplicity of infection (MOI) = 0.01. Data shown at 50 hours post-infection (HPI). *p<0.01: 922 results of two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test ($\alpha = 0.05$), n = 3. (b – d) Relative 923 quantification of (b) NeoR (plasmid backbone), (c) IFIT1, or (d) IFIT3 expression from RNA isolated from 924 925 unclarified supernatants at 25 HPI from the same dNSP16-infected samples as in (a). **p<0.01, 926 ***p<0.005: results of one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test ($\alpha = 0.05$). For all panels, 927 means are plotted with error bars denoting standard deviation. PFU = plaque-forming units. 928



929

930 Figure S9. Sinefungin decreases Vero E6, but not Calu3 2B4 viability. (a, b) Cell viability post-

sinefungin treatment as measured by amount of luminescence detected in an ATP detection assay. (a) 1

932 x 10^3 Vero E6 cells/well or (b) 1.5×10^3 Calu3 2B4 cells/well were seeded in 96-well format one day

933 before sinefungin treatment. Data shown at 48 hours post-treatment. *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ****p<0.001:

results of one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test (α = 0.05). For all panels, means are plotted with error bars denoting standard deviation. n = 3 biological replicates for all data points. RLU =

936 relative light units. PFU = plaque-forming units.