Supplementary Table. Detail description of air sampling for SARS-CoV-2 RNA in general wards during the 5th wave of COVID-19 in Hong Kong

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Episode of air sampling | Ward (date of air sampling) | Duration of air sampling (hour) a | No. of patients during air sampling | Age of patients  (mean ± S.D.) | Ct value of patients  (mean ± S.D.) | Interval of clinical and air samples (day, mean ± S.D.) | Ct value of air sample, if detectable |
| 1 | A4 (Mar 28, 2022) | 1 | 28 | 79.6 ± 15.5 | 25.6 ± 6.8 | 1.4 ± 2.0 | 37.4 |
| 2 | A4 (Mar 26, 2022) | 6 | 17 | 78.8 ± 13.5 | 27.0 ± 7.2 | 1.6 ± 1.6 | 40.1 |
| 3 | B2 (Mar 24, 2022) | 2 | 20 | 82.1 ± 12.2 | 25.7 ± 6.6 | 4.9 ± 3.7 | 42.2 |
| 4 | B2 (Mar 24, 2022) | 4 | 20 | 82.1 ± 12.2 | 25.7 ± 6.6 | 4.9 ± 3.7 | 39.0 |
| 5 | B2 (Mar 21, 2022) | 6 | 29 | 84.2 ± 10.4 | 24.8 ± 6.4 | 2.9 ± 2.9 | 33.4 |
| 6 | B3 (Mar 29, 2022) | 1 | 16 | 74.3 ± 12.9 | 28.6 ± 6.8 | 2.2 ± 2.9 | ND |
| 7 | B3 (Mar 29, 2022) | 2 | 16 | 74.3 ± 12.9 | 28.6 ± 6.8 | 2.2 ± 2.9 | ND |
| 8 | B3 (Mar 31, 2022) | 4 | 11 | 75.1 ± 11.6 | 27.3 ± 5.9 | 3.5 ± 4.9 | 40.4 |
| 9 | B3 (Mar 30, 2022) | 6 | 14 | 73.4 ± 10.8 | 28.2 ± 6.6 | 3.0 ± 4.0 | 35.1 |
| 10 | D4 (Apr 1, 2022) | 2 | 13 | 79.8 ± 14.5 | 29.5 ± 6.5 | 2.2 ± 2.0 | ND |
| 11 | D4 (Apr 1, 2022) | 4 | 13 | 79.8 ± 14.5 | 29.5 ± 6.5 | 2.2 ± 2.0 | ND |
| 12 | D4 (Apr 1, 2022) | 6 | 13 | 76.4 ± 17.5 | 30.5 ± 6.4 | 2.2 ± 2.2 | 39.7 |
| 13 | D6 (Apr 7, 2022) | 2 | 18 | 69.3 ± 19.3 | 27.3 ± 4.6 | 2.6 ± 4.2 | 41.2 |
| 14 | D6 (Apr 7, 2022) | 4 | 19 | 69.9 ± 19.0 | 28.0 ± 5.2 | 2.7 ± 4.1 | 41.2 |
| 15 | D6 (Mar 18, 2022) | 6 | 28 | 76.4 ± 15.1 | 21.8 ± 4.5 | 2.3 ± 2.7 | 40.7 |
| 16 | E4 (Mar 25, 2022) | 2 | 24 | 83.8 ± 12.2 | 25.3 ± 5.4 | 3.6 ± 2.7 | 42.1 |
| 17 | E4 (Mar 25, 2022) | 4 | 25 | 83.2 ± 12.3 | 26.0 ± 6.0 | 3.3 ± 2.6 | 38.9 |
| 18 | E4 (Mar 19, 2022) | 6 | 37 | 81.8 ± 13.1 | 23.5 ± 5.6 | 2.0 ± 1.9 | 39.5 |
| 19 | E6 (Mar 23, 2022) | 2 | 33 | 79.9 ± 16.2 | 24.0 ± 6.3 | 3.4 ± 3.2 | 38.1 |
| 20 | E6 (Mar 23, 2022) | 4 | 36 | 80.3 ± 16.2 | 24.1 ± 6.1 | 3.1 ± 3.2 | 40.6 |
| 21 | E6 (Mar 22, 2022) | 6 | 33 | 77.1 ± 16.9 | 22.6 ± 6.2 | 3.3 ± 3.5 | 37.4 |
| 22 | K13N (Apr 4, 2022) | 2 | 12 | 84.6 ± 12.9 | 27.1 ± 6.4 | 2.0 ± 1.7 | ND |
| 23 | K13N (Apr 4, 2022) | 4 | 12 | 83.7 ± 13.4 | 27.0 ± 6.6 | 1.8 ± 1.7 | 38.9 |
| 24 | K13N (Apr 6, 2022) | 6 | 8 | 83.1 ± 16.7 | 26.5 ± 6.7 | 2.1 ± 1.5 | 37.2 |

COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019; Ct, cycle threshold; ND, not detectable; SARS-CoV-2, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2; S.D., standard deviation.

a The flow rate of air collection was 200 L per minute. The volume of air collection ranged from 12,000 L (at 1 hour), 24,000 L (at 2 hours), 48,000 L (at 4 hours) to 72,000 L (at 6 hours) per sample.