

1 **Bacterial Pneumonia and Respiratory Culture Utilization among Hospitalized Patients with and**
2 **without COVID-19 in New York City**

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4 Maxwell D. Weidmann, MD, PhD¹, Gregory J. Berry, PhD¹, Jason E. Zucker, MD², Simian Huang²,
5 Magdalena E. Sobieszczyk, MD², and Daniel A. Green, MD¹

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7 ¹Department of Pathology & Cell Biology, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY

8 ²Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Internal Medicine, Columbia University Irving Medical
9 Center, New York, NY

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14 #Address correspondence to:

15 Daniel A. Green, M.D., Ph.D.

16 Assistant Professor of Pathology & Cell Biology

17 Columbia University Irving Medical Center

18 3959 Broadway, CHC 3-324

19 New York, NY 10032

20 (212)-305-6301

21 dag2149@cumc.columbia.edu

22

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26 **Abstract**

27 COVID-19 is associated with prolonged hospitalization and a high risk of intubation, which raises
28 concern for bacterial co-infection and antimicrobial resistance. Previous research has shown a wide range
29 of bacterial pneumonia rates for COVID-19 patients in a variety of clinical and demographic settings, but
30 none have compared hospitalized COVID-19 patients to patients testing negative for SARS-CoV-2 in
31 similar care settings. We performed a retrospective cohort study on hospitalized patients with COVID-19
32 testing from 10 March 2020 to 31 December 2020. A total of 19,219 patients were included, of which
33 3,796 tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. We found a 2.6-fold increase ($p < 0.001$) in respiratory culture
34 ordering in COVID-19 patients. On a per-patient basis, COVID-19 patients were 1.5-fold more likely
35 than non-COVID patients to have abnormal respiratory cultures (46.8% vs. 30.9%, $p < 0.001$), which was
36 primarily driven by patients requiring intubation. Among patients with pneumonia, a significantly higher
37 proportion of COVID-19 patients had ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) relative to non-COVID
38 patients (85.7% vs 55.1%, $p < 0.001$), but a lower proportion had community-acquired (12.2% vs 22.1%, p
39 < 0.01) or hospital-acquired pneumonia (2.1% vs. 22.8%, $p < 0.001$). There was also a significantly
40 higher proportion of respiratory cultures positive for MRSA, *K. pneumoniae*, and antibiotic-resistant
41 organisms in COVID-19 patients. Increased rates of respiratory culture ordering for COVID-19 patients
42 therefore appear to be clinically justified for patients requiring intubation, but further research is needed
43 to understand how SARS-CoV-2 increases the risk of VAP.

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50 **Introduction**

51 Concern for bacterial co-infection among COVID-19 patients resulted in empirical antimicrobial
52 therapy given to a large proportion of patients hospitalized at our medical center during 2020 [1]. While a
53 relatively high rate of bacterial and influenza co-infection has characterized hospitalized influenza
54 patients, with estimates ranging from 11% to 35% [2, 3], less is known about the rate of bacterial
55 pneumonia in hospitalized COVID-19 patients. Further, in influenza, bacterial co-infection has been
56 found to be more frequently of community-origin, with one study of hospitalized adults in the US finding
57 that more than 54% of co-infections in adults were diagnosed within the first 48 hours of hospitalization
58 [3]. Several studies have examined bacterial co-infection for COVID-19 patients in inpatient and ICU
59 settings, generally finding lower rates than for influenza patients [4-7]. Of the two largest such studies,
60 one found very low rates of community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) (1.5%) [7], while the other found an
61 overall bacterial pneumonia rate of 2.1%, with the overwhelming majority being HAP or VAP [6, 8]. One
62 study among ICU patients found much higher rates of patients with abnormal respiratory cultures (28%),
63 however 90% of these patients required mechanical ventilation [9].

64 Therefore, when all hospitalized patients are considered together, rates of bacterial pneumonia
65 appear lower in COVID-19 patients relative to hospitalized influenza patients, and in contrast to
66 influenza, few of these infections are community-acquired. However, none of these studies have assessed
67 the concurrent rate of bacterial co-infections, including HAP and VAP rates, in patients testing negative
68 for SARS-CoV-2 during the same period. This lack of a direct comparison between COVID-19 and non-
69 COVID-19 infected patients makes it difficult to determine whether the highly disparate reported rates of
70 bacterial co-infection represent the heterogeneity of the patient populations studied, or a truly elevated
71 risk of bacterial pneumonia associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection.

72 Additionally, respiratory culture utilization among COVID-19 patients has not been previously
73 studied. Understanding the rates of respiratory culture ordering and positivity among COVID-19 patients
74 is needed to determine whether culture ordering is appropriate among hospitalized COVID-19 patients,

75 and to understand the risk of HAP and VAP in this population. To study this further, we compared rates
76 of bacterial pneumonia, respiratory culture ordering, bacterial etiologies, and antibiotic resistance between
77 patients testing positive and negative for COVID-19 in the same hospital setting.

78 **Materials and Methods**

79 A retrospective cohort study was conducted on all hospitalized patients with SARS-CoV-2 testing
80 performed at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC) located in New York City from 10
81 March 2020 to 31 December 2020. SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR testing was performed in-house using the
82 following assays: Cobas SARS-CoV-2 (Roche Molecular Systems, Inc., Branchburg, NJ), Xpert Xpress
83 SARS-CoV-2 (Cepheid, Sunnyvale, CA), and a laboratory-developed test from the Wadsworth Center at
84 the New York State Department of Health.

85 Data were extracted from medical records to compare respiratory culture utilization and culture
86 results between COVID-19 and non-COVID patients; these data included time of SARS-CoV-2 testing,
87 SARS-CoV-2 test results, dates of admission and discharge, intubation status, number of respiratory
88 cultures performed, time of respiratory culture orders, and results of respiratory culture testing, including
89 time of culture results, bacterial species recovered, and antimicrobial susceptibility.

90 Rates of respiratory culture utilization and culture positivity were compared between COVID-19 and
91 non-COVID patients, as was the distribution of recovered species, antimicrobial susceptibility profiles,
92 intubation status and ordering time of positive cultures during hospital admission to stratify pneumonia
93 cases into community-acquired (≤ 2 days) vs. hospital-acquired (> 2 days) vs ventilator-associated (>2
94 days after intubation) [8]. A positive respiratory culture was defined as any potential respiratory pathogen
95 recovered from culture, whereas a negative result was defined as either no growth, when cultures were
96 resulted as “mixed commensal microbiota,” or when only yeast were isolated. Respiratory cultures were
97 excluded if SARS-CoV-2 testing was performed after respiratory cultures were ordered to ensure that all
98 culture results analyzed were from patients of known COVID-19 status at time of testing.

99 Chi-squared testing was used to identify statistically significant differences in rates of respiratory
100 culture ordering, positivity, antibiotic resistance, and CAP, HAP or VAP in COVID-19 positive and
101 negative patients. A two-tailed Student's t-test was used to assess statistical significance in time to
102 respiratory culture positivity (when results of continuous variables were being compared). Data analysis
103 was initially performed using Microsoft Excel, with statistical tests performed using R and R-Studio for
104 reproducibility with scripts included in supplemental data.

105

106 **Results**

107 *Demographics of SARS-CoV-2 positive and negative populations*

108 A total of 19,275 participants were initially included; 3,805 (19.7%) tested positive for SARS-CoV-2
109 and 15,470 (80.3%) tested negative. 56 patients were excluded due to respiratory cultures ordered prior to
110 SARS-CoV-2 testing, leaving 19,219 participants for study analysis. SARS-CoV-2 positivity rates varied
111 widely over the study period, from a peak of nearly 60% in April 2020 to a low of just over 3% in
112 September 2020 (**Supplemental Figure 1**). Demographic characteristics of included patients are
113 shown in **Table 1**. Compared to non-COVID patients, COVID-19 patients were older ($p <$
114 0.001), more likely to be male ($p < 0.001$), more likely to be Hispanic/Latino, less likely to be
115 white, and were more likely to receive care in the ICU ($p < 0.001$). The mortality rate was also
116 5.6-fold higher (16.9% vs. 3.0%, $p < 0.001$) and intubation rate 2.9-fold higher (16.6 vs. 5.7, $p <$
117 0.001) for COVID-19 patients.

118

119 *Increased rates of respiratory culture ordering in COVID-19 patients*

120 COVID-19 patients were 2.6 times as likely to have respiratory cultures ordered compared to non-
121 COVID patients (16.0 % vs 6.2%, $p < 0.001$, **Table 2**). Although the rate of respiratory culture ordering
122 varied by month (**Figure 1A**), significantly higher ordering was seen among COVID-19 patients across

123 all months except July 2020. Increased ordering was also reflected in a higher number of cultures ordered
124 per patient for COVID-19 patients relative to non-COVID patients (4.3 vs 2.7 per patient, $p < 0.001$,
125 **Figure 1B**).

126 A much higher rate of respiratory culture ordering was seen overall among intubated patients
127 (57.5%) vs non-intubated patients (4.4%). Among intubated patients, however, ordering was still
128 significantly higher for those with COVID-19 compared to non-COVID patients (71.5% vs. 47.4%, $p <$
129 0.001 , **Table 2, Supplementary Figure 2**). In addition, among patients who did not require intubation,
130 there was also a significantly higher rate of respiratory culture ordering for COVID-19 relative to non-
131 COVID patients (6.1 vs 4.1%, $p < 0.001$, **Supplementary Figure 2D & Table 2**).

132

133 *Higher likelihood of respiratory culture positivity among intubated COVID-19 patients.*

134 Overall, 7.6% of COVID-19 patients had positive respiratory cultures vs. 1.8% for non-COVID
135 patients (**Figure 2, Table 3**). Among patients who had respiratory cultures ordered, COVID-19 patients
136 were also more likely than non-COVID patients to have an abnormal culture (46.8% vs 30.9%, $p <$
137 0.001). Even accounting for the higher rate of respiratory culture ordering among COVID-19 patients, on
138 a per culture basis, COVID-19 patients still had a higher percentage of positive cultures (33.4% vs 26.9%,
139 $p < 0.001$, **Table 3**).

140 The higher rate of abnormal cultures among COVID-19 patients was primarily driven by patients
141 requiring intubation. A total of 26.7% of all intubated patients had abnormal respiratory cultures collected
142 more than 48 hours after intubation, qualifying as ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP). Amongst
143 intubated patients, VAP was more than twice as likely in COVID-19 patients relative to non-COVID
144 patients (39.0% vs. 17.9%, $p < 0.001$, **Supplementary Figure 2E, Table 3**). When looking at only
145 intubated patients who had respiratory cultures ordered, there remained a significantly higher proportion
146 of COVID-19 positive patients with VAP compared to non-COVID patients (62.0% vs. 51.5%, $p < 0.01$,
147 **Supplementary Figure 2E, Table 3**) However, among non-intubated patients, there were no significant

148 differences by COVID-19 status in the proportion of patients with respiratory cultures ordered that
149 resulted as abnormal or the proportion of total patients with abnormal respiratory culture results
150 (**Supplementary Figure 2E-F, Table 3**).

151 Among culture-positive patients, COVID-19 patients had a significantly lower rate of CAP, defined
152 as abnormal cultures within the first two days of admission, compared to non-COVID patients (12.2% vs
153 22.1%, $p < 0.01$, **Figure 3, Table 4**). Conversely a significantly higher proportion of pneumonia cases
154 also occurred at least two days after admission for COVID-19 positive patients relative to non-COVID
155 patients (**Figure 3**), and this difference was particularly pronounced in patients with positive cultures at
156 least 10 days after admission (64.8% vs. 42.1%, $p < 0.001$). When we looked specifically at HAP, defined
157 as abnormal respiratory cultures that resulted more than two days after admission but not in patients who
158 had been ventilated for more than two days, we found a significantly lower rate among COVID-19
159 patients relative to non-COVID patients (2.1% vs. 22.8%, $p < 0.001$, **Figure 3, Table 4**). The
160 overwhelming majority (85.7%) of bacterial pneumonia cases among COVID-19 patients were ventilator-
161 associated, and this was significantly higher than the rate of VAP in non-COVID patients with bacterial
162 pneumonia (55.1%, $p < 0.001$, **Figure 3, Table 4**).

163

164 *Bacterial etiologies of positive respiratory cultures*

165 Respiratory cultures grew a wide range of bacterial pathogens in our patient population
166 (**Supplementary Table 1**). The most common organism overall was *P. aeruginosa* (**Figure 4**). For
167 COVID-19 patients, the most common organisms in descending order were *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa* and
168 *K. pneumoniae*. For non-COVID patients, the most common organisms in descending order were *P.*
169 *aeruginosa*, *S. aureus* and *K. Pneumoniae* (**Figure 4**). Among patients with abnormal respiratory cultures,
170 methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* infections (MRSA) were more common for COVID-19 patients (8.9% vs.
171 5.4%, $p < 0.05$, **Figure 4**), and there was a significant increase in the proportion of overall COVID-19
172 positive vs. negative patients with MRSA respiratory infections (1.05% vs. 0.15%, $p < 0.001$). There was

173 also a significantly higher proportion of COVID-19 patients whose cultures grew *K. pneumoniae* (26.1%
174 vs. 16.3%, $p < 0.01$, **Figure 4**).

175

176 *Antibiotic resistance in COVID-19 bacterial pneumonia*

177 In agreement with our finding of increased rates of MRSA-positive respiratory cultures in COVID-
178 19 patients, we found increased rates of resistance to penicillin class antibiotics (penicillin, ampicillin,
179 oxacillin), 63.4 vs. 50.1% of COVID-19 positive vs. negative patients who had an abnormal culture result
180 ($p < 0.05$, **Supplemental Figure 3**). Rates of penicillin-class resistance amongst gram-positive organisms
181 were higher amongst COVID-19 patients (51.8 vs. 40.7%), but this difference was not significant.
182 Relative to non-COVID patients, COVID-19 patients showed no significant increases in rates of
183 Enterbacterales resistant to 3rd-generation cephalosporins, carbapenem-resistant Enterbacterales, and
184 carbapenem-resistant *P. aeruginosa* or *A. baumannii*.

185 **Discussion**

186 During the first 10 months of the COVID-19 pandemic we found significantly higher utilization of
187 respiratory cultures for COVID-19 patients compared to non-COVID patients at our NYC medical center.
188 Yet despite the increased ordering, intubated COVID-19 patients still had a higher percentage of
189 abnormal respiratory cultures than intubated non-COVID patients, suggesting that COVID-19 patients
190 have an elevated risk for VAP. Bacterial pneumonia in COVID-19 patients was much more likely to be
191 ventilator-associated and less likely to be community acquired when compared to non-COVID patients.
192 When excluding intubated patients, rates of hospital-acquired pneumonia were lower among COVID-19
193 relative to non-COVID patients. This study is the first to directly assess respiratory culture ordering and
194 positivity in COVID-19 and non-COVID patients in the same hospital. Given the higher rate of positivity
195 amongst intubated COVID-19 patients, respiratory culture ordering appears warranted for this subset of
196 hospitalized COVID-19 patients in whom there is a higher suspicion for bacterial pneumonia.

197 While more than 80% of respiratory co-infections in COVID-19 patients occurred more than two
198 days into hospitalization, and the majority of these occurred well into hospitalization (> 10 days), nearly
199 all these cases qualified as VAP and were therefore attributable to intubation rather than other sources of
200 hospital-acquired infection. Only 0.7% of non-intubated COVID-19 patients were found to have bacterial
201 pneumonia, and when this was normalized to respiratory culture ordering, the rate was lower than that for
202 non-intubated non-COVID patients. We also found similarly low rates of CAP in COVID-19 patients
203 compared to what has previously been cited in the literature. A recent study of hospitalized COVID-19
204 patients looking specifically at rates of bacterial co-infection within the first three days of hospitalization
205 and finding 1.1% with probable infection, and additional 12.4% with possible co-infection, when all types
206 of infection were considered [10]. Looking specifically at respiratory bacterial co-infections, our study
207 found 1.2% of COVID-19 patients with positive cultures in the first three days of hospitalization, in
208 contrast to 6.3% of COVID-19 patients with abnormal cultures representing HAP or VAP by this
209 definition. The low rate of community-acquired respiratory infections we found here further supports
210 these authors' conclusions that empiric antibiotic therapy for COVID-19 patients is generally not
211 indicated during early hospitalization [10, 11]. Similarly, our finding that non-intubated patients had
212 lower rates of bacterial pneumonia, when those rates were normalized by respiratory culture ordering,
213 argues against routine respiratory culture and empiric pneumonia therapy in these patients. However, the
214 relatively high rates of VAP that we found in COVID-19 patients supports a low threshold for respiratory
215 culture ordering and initiation of antimicrobial therapy for intubated patients.

216 Abnormal respiratory cultures of COVID-19 patients were enriched for pathogens associated with
217 hospital-acquired infection with a generally similar proportion non-COVID patients (**Figure 4**). However,
218 there were significant increases in both *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and MRSA respiratory infections, which
219 we interpreted as further corroborating an increased level of hospital-acquired infections for COVID-19
220 positive patients, particularly relative to the total number of patients testing positive. Overall rates of
221 resistance to penicillin-class antibiotics were significantly higher in respiratory isolates from COVID-19

222 positive patients, which corroborates data from other studies demonstrating high rates of MRSA and
223 MDR bacterial infections in COVID-19 patients [6, 12]. One such study also showed that there were
224 significant increases in antibiotic resistance by the duration of hospital stay, including rates of MRSA,
225 vancomycin resistant Enterococcus (VRE), ceftriaxone-resistant Enterbacterales, carbapenem-resistant
226 Enterobacterales and carbapenem-resistant *P. aeruginosa* or *A. baumannii* [12]. Interestingly, we did not
227 find significant increase in resistance rates between COVID-19 positive and negative patients for
228 ceftriaxone-resistant Enterbacterales, carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales and carbapenem-resistant *P.*
229 *aeruginosa* or *A. baumannii*. However, further study is necessary to understand the mechanism by which
230 MRSA rates are increased by SARS-CoV-2 infection, and whether this is via direct effect of the virus on
231 the host environment or indirectly through affecting host exposure to drug resistant pathogens.

232 Some limitations of this study include its representation of data from a single institution only. There
233 were also significant baseline demographic differences in the COVID-19 positive and negative
234 populations. Inadequate SARS-CoV-2 testing capacity also makes results from March of 2020 difficult to
235 interpret, as false negative rates may have been increased in this setting. Prior to March 23rd, 2020, not all
236 patients admitted to CUIMC were tested for SARS-CoV-2 due to limited capacity, and this population of
237 unknown COVID-19 status was not included in our data. The data available did not include sensitivities
238 for several antibiotic classes, such as fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides and macrolides, that would have
239 been helpful in a more comprehensive characterization of resistance in our population of patients with
240 bacterial pneumonia. In addition, the data analyzed here represents one period early in the pandemic,
241 during which time rates of COVID-19 varied greatly in the population (Supplemental Figure 1). The
242 COVID-19 patient population represented here is largely composed of those infected during the initial
243 surge of infections in NYC from March-May of 2020 and may not represent later stages of the pandemic
244 during which different SARS-CoV-2 variants have become dominant.

245 In summary, the data presented here suggests that COVID-19 infection resulted in higher rates of
246 bacterial co-infection relative to patients who tested negative during the same period, but that these

247 infections were seen in the setting of prolonged hospitalization and intubation, rather than increased rates
248 of CAP as seen with other viruses such as influenza. Possible explanations for these findings include
249 longer periods of hospitalization for COVID-19 patients, inadequate infection control practices during
250 acute phases of the pandemic, or direct effects of SARS-CoV-2 itself on the pathogenesis of bacterial
251 pneumonia during intubation. Based on these findings, respiratory culture ordering is indicated for
252 COVID-19 patients with prolonged hospitalization and ventilator dependence. However, further study is
253 necessary to understand why SARS-CoV-2 predisposes intubated patients to VAP.

254

255 **References**

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285 **Tables:**

286 **Table 1: Demographics of SARS-CoV-2 Positive and Negative Patient Population.**

Category	Sub-Category	SARS-CoV-2 Positive	SARS-CoV-2 Negative	p-value
Age (years)	<u>Mean (±SD)</u>	62.0 ± 21.0	48.7 ± 26.4	p < 1e-15
Sex	<u>Male</u>	54.0%	43.2%	p < 1e-15
	<u>Female</u>	46.0%	56.8%	
Race	<u>White</u>	11.8%	19.0%	p < 1e-15
	<u>Black</u>	12.8%	13.1%	
	<u>Hispanic/Latino</u>	51.9%	39.6%	
	<u>Other</u>	23.5%	28.3%	
Care Setting	<u>ED</u>	<0.1%	<0.1%	p < 0.00001
	<u>Admitted</u>	79.9%	83.1%	
	<u>ICU</u>	20.0%	16.9%	
Mortality		16.9%	3.0%	p < 1e-15
Intubation		16.6%	5.7%	p < 1e-15

287

288 **Table 2: Respiratory Culture Ordering**

Metric	Total	SARS-CoV-2 Positive	SARS-CoV-2 Negative	p-value
Total Patients	19219	3796	15423	
Total cultures ordered	5152	2587	2565	
Patients with respiratory cultures ordered	1569 (8.2%)	607 (16.0%)	962 (6.2%)	p < 1e-15
Cultures ordered per patient	3.3	4.3	2.7	p < 1e-14
Intubated patients with respiratory cultures ordered	867 (57.5%)	451 (71.5%)	416 (47.4%)	p < 1e-15
Non-intubated patients with respiratory cultures ordered	792 (4.4%)	195 (6.1%)	597 (4.1%)	p < 1e-5

289 **Table 3: Respiratory Culture Positivity**

Metric	Total	SARS-CoV-2 Positive	SARS-CoV-2 Negative	p-value
Total Patients	19219	3796	15423	
Intubated Patients	1509 (7.9%)	631 (16.6%)	878 (5.7%)	
Patients who had abnormal respiratory cultures	572 (3.0%)	287 (7.6%)	285 (1.8%)	p < 1e-15
% of patients with abnormal cultures among patients with cultures ordered	37.0%	46.8%	30.9%	p < 1e-9
Cultures that resulted as abnormal	1554 (30.2%)	863 (33.4%)	691 (26.9%)	p < 1e-6
Intubated patients with Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) (%)	403 (26.7%)	246 (39.0%)	157 (17.9%)	p < 1e-15
% of intubated patients with respiratory cultures ordered and Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP)	57.4%	62.0%	51.5%	p < 0.01
Non-intubated patients who had abnormal respiratory cultures (%)	133 (0.7%)	24 (0.7%)	109 (0.7%)	p = 1
% of non-intubated patients with respiratory cultures ordered that resulted as abnormal	16.8%	12.3%	18.3%	p = 0.069

290

291 **Table 4: Bacterial Pneumonia Categories**

Metric	Total	SARS-CoV-2 Positive	SARS-CoV-2 Negative	p-value
Total Pneumonia Patients	572	287	285	
Cases of CAP	98 (17.1%)	35 (12.2%)	63 (22.1%)	p < 0.01
Cases of HAP	71 (12.4%)	6 (2.1%)	65 (22.8%)	p < 1e-12
Cases of VAP	403 (70.4%)	246 (85.7%)	157 (55.1%)	p < 1e-14

292

293 **Figure Legends:**

294 **Figure 1: Respiratory culture ordering by COVID-19 status**

295 A) Percentage of patients with respiratory cultures ordered, by month and total. B) Average number of
296 respiratory cultures ordered per patient. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, ns = not significant.

297

298 **Figure 2. Abnormal respiratory culture rates by COVID-19 status.** Percentage of patients with
299 abnormal respiratory cultures of those with any respiratory culture ordered. *** $p < 0.001$

300

301 **Figure 3: Time from admission to respiratory culture positivity**

302 A) Percentage of total COVID-19 or non-COVID patients with abnormal respiratory culture grouped by
303 time interval from admission to respiratory culture ordering comparing community acquired pneumonia
304 (CAP, <48hrs) to hospital-acquired (HAP) or ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP). B) Percentage of
305 total COVID-19 or non-COVID patients with abnormal respiratory culture who fit criteria for CAP, HAP
306 or VAP [8]. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

307

308 **Figure 4: Bacterial species identified in abnormal respiratory cultures in COVID-19 positive vs.**
309 **negative patients.** Percent of total patients in each category of COVID-19 status with the 10 most
310 common species for COVID-19 patients in descending order. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

311

312 **Supplementary Figure 1: Percentage of hospitalized patients with new positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR**
313 **tests per month during 2020.** Based on the number of first-time positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR per month,
314 relative to total patients tested in that month. Tests recorded in the data base began on March 10, 2020.

315

316 **Supplementary Figure 2: Rates of Respiratory Culture Ordering and Positivity in Intubated**

317 **Patients.** A) Percentage of overall patients by COVID-19 status who are intubated. B) Percent of patients
318 with respiratory cultures ordered who are intubated or non-intubated by COVID-19 status. C) Percent of

319 patients with abnormal respiratory culture results who are intubated or non-intubated by COVID-19
320 status. D) Percentage of intubated, non-intubated or overall hospitalized patients who have respiratory
321 cultures ordered by COVID-19 status. E) Percent of intubated, non-intubated or overall hospitalized
322 patients with abnormal respiratory culture results out of the total number with cultures ordered by
323 COVID-19 status. For intubated patients, only those respiratory cultures collected more than 48 hours
324 after intubation were included. F) Percent of intubated or overall hospitalized patients with abnormal
325 respiratory cultures out of total patients by COVID-19 status. For intubated patients, only those
326 respiratory cultures collected more than 48 hours after intubation were included. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$,
327 *** $p < 0.001$

328
329 **Supplementary Figure 3: Rates of antibiotic resistance by category.** Percentage of overall cultures with
330 each type of resistance. Penicillin class includes penicillin-like beta lactams: penicillin, oxacillin and
331 ampicillin; Cephalosporins include ceftriaxone and ceftazidime. * $p < 0.05$

332

333

Figure 1

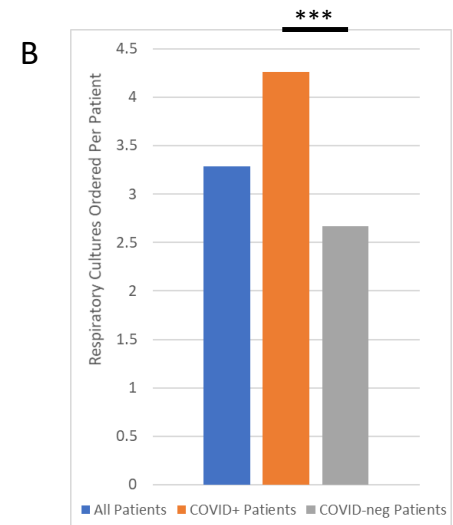
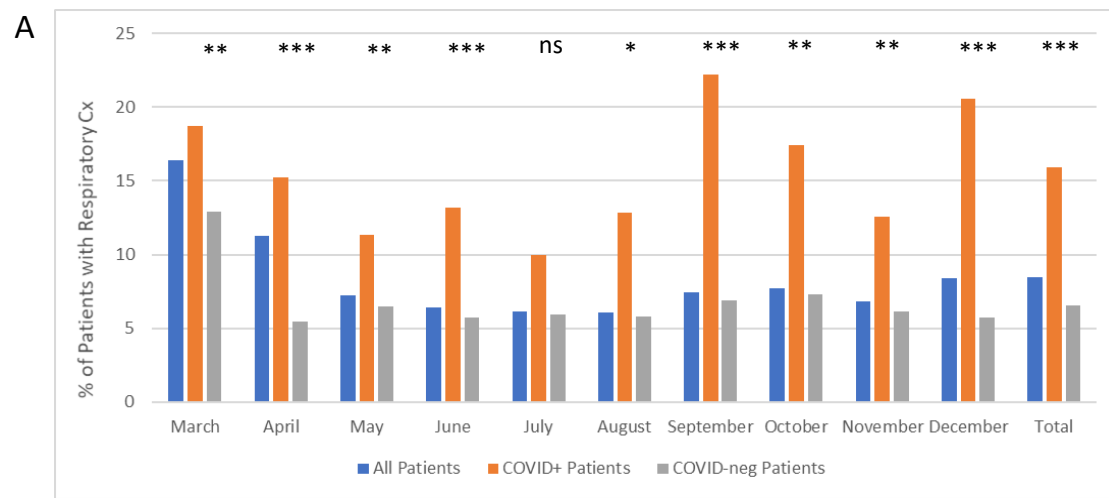


Figure 2

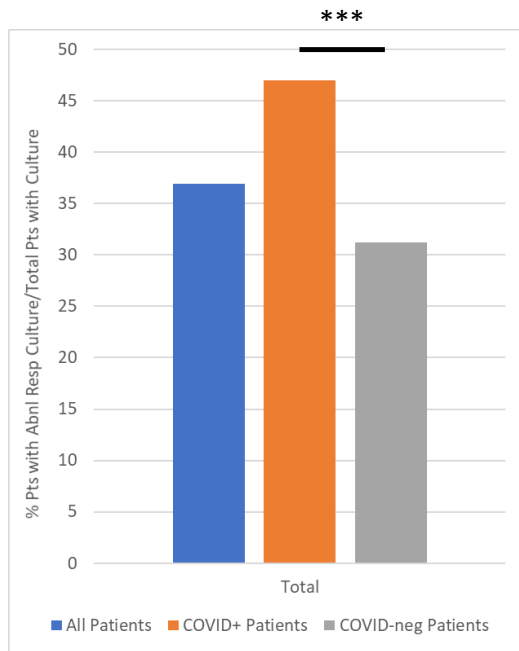


Figure 3

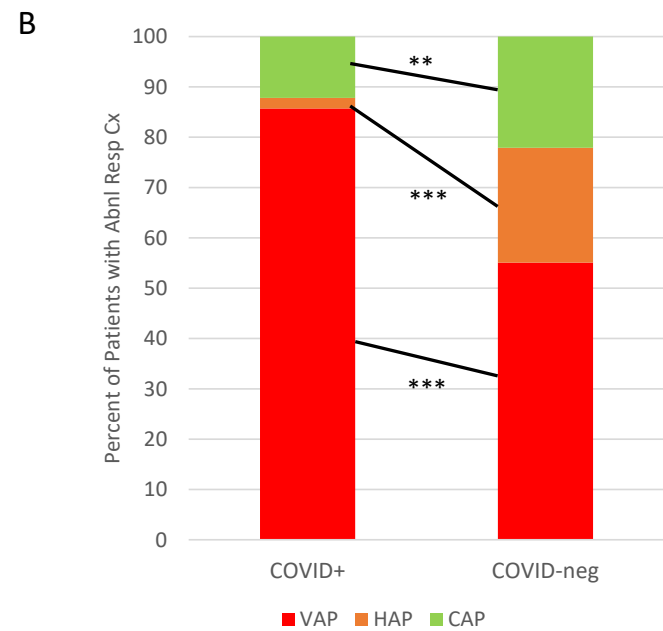
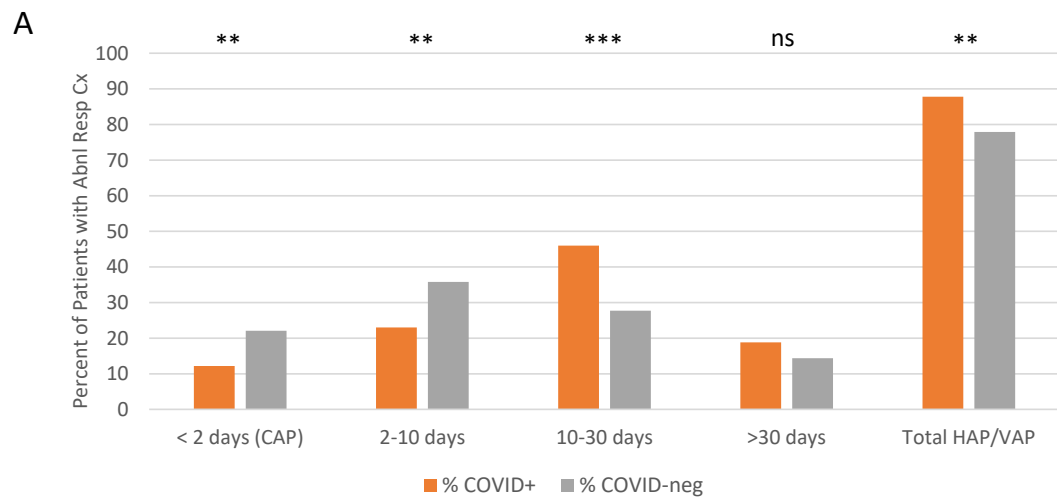


Figure 4

