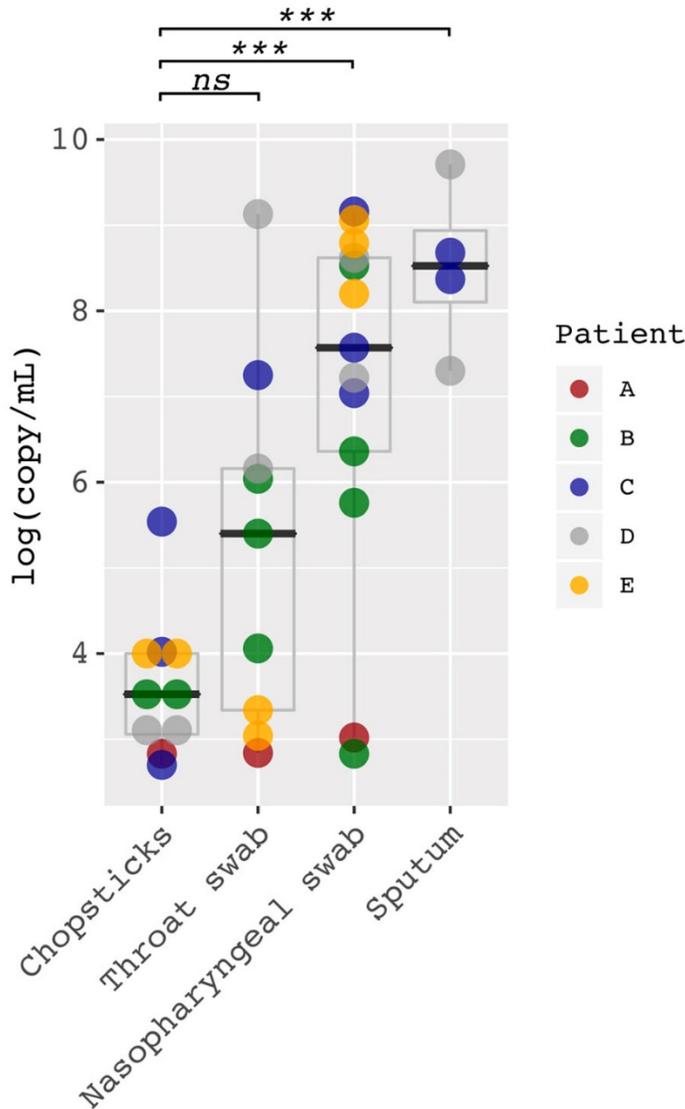


# SARS-CoV-2 RNA Detection on Disposable Wooden Chopsticks, Hong Kong

## Appendix



**Appendix Figure.** Concentration of SARS-CoV RNA detected from chopsticks and respiratory specimens. The cycle threshold (Ct) values of real-time RT-PCR were converted into viral RNA copies based on a standard curve prepared from 10-fold serial dilutions of known copies of plasmid containing the full N gene (2019-nCoV\_N\_Positive Control, Integrated DNA Technologies, <https://www.idtdna.com>).

\*\*\*The concentration of SARS-CoV-2 RNA detected from chopsticks (median  $3.4 \times 10^3$ , interquartile range [IQR]  $1.0\text{--}10.0 \times 10^3$ ) viral copies/mL was significantly lower than those of nasopharyngeal swabs ( $3.68 [0.23\text{--}42.04] \times 10^7$ ), and sputum samples ( $3.54 [1.27\text{--}27.92] \times 10^8$ ),  $p < 0.001$  by *t*-test for both comparisons; ns, no significant difference in viral copy levels between chopsticks (median [IQR]:  $3.4 [1.0\text{--}10.0] \times 10^3$ ) and throat swab samples ( $2.50 [0.22\text{--}14.4] \times 10^5$  viral copies/mL,  $p = 0.058$  by *t*-test). Patient A, who was asymptomatic, had very low viral levels in chopsticks and respiratory samples (range  $0.7\text{--}1.0 \times 10^3$  viral copies/mL).