

**From:** Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
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**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: medRxiv: Detectable serum SARS-CoV-2 viral load (RNAemia) is closely associated with drastically elevated interleukin 6 (IL-6) level in critically ill COVID-19 patients

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**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2020 4:27 PM  
**Subject:** medRxiv: Detectable serum SARS-CoV-2 viral load (RNAemia) is closely associated with drastically elevated interleukin 6 (IL-6) level in critically ill COVID-19 patients

## Detectable serum SARS-CoV-2 viral load (RNAemia) is closely associated with drastically elevated interleukin 6 (IL-6) level in critically ill COVID-19 patients

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- [Abstract](#)
- [Info/History](#)
- [Metrics](#)
- 
- [Preview PDF](#)

### Abstract

**Background:** Although the SARS-CoV-2 viral load detection of respiratory specimen has been widely used for novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) diagnosis, it is undeniable that serum SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid (RNAemia) could be detected in a fraction of the COVID-19 patients. However, it is not clear that if the incidence of RNAemia could be correlated with the occurrence of cytokine storm or with the specific class of patients. **Methods:** This study enrolled 48 patients with COVID-19 admitted to the General Hospital of Central Theater Command, PLA, a designated hospital in Wuhan, China. The patients were divided into three groups according to the Diagnosis and Treatment of New Coronavirus Pneumonia (version 6) published by the National Health Commission of China. The clinical and laboratory data were collected. The serum viral load detection and serum IL-6 levels were determined. Except for routine statistical analysis, Generalized Linear Models (GLMs) analysis was used to establish a patient status