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44 conduction of the study and P.S. wrote the first draft of the manuscripts. N.W., P.G., C.T. and

45 C.N. were responsible for performing the ECLIA assays and data transfer. A.E.B. was

46 responsible for data monitoring. F.B.B., B.G. and D.H. performed the statistical analysis.

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60 the work were approved by the Cantonal Research Ethics Commission of Bern, Switzerland

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62 Patient consent statement: All participants signed written informed consent prior to

63 enrolment in the PoliCOV-19 study.

64 Permission to reproduce material from other sources: Not applicable. Figure 1 is adapted

from an open resource website and referenced accordingly. The baseline study using the same

- 66 cohort of study participants and using the same serology methods and questionnaires have
- 67 been published elsewhere [1]. Here, the follow-up results after 3 and 6 months are presented.

68 Abstract

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Introduction: To assess the risk for COVID-19 of police officers, we are studying the 70 71 seroprevalence in a cohort. The baseline cross-sectional investigation was performed prior to a vaccination campaign in January/February 2021, and demonstrated a seroprevalence of 72 73 12.9%. Here, we demonstrate serosurveillance results after a vaccination campaign. 74 Methods: The cohort consists of 1022 study participants. The 3-month and 6-month follow-75 up visits were performed in April/May and September 2021. Data on infection and 76 vaccination rates were obtained via measuring antibodies to the nucleocapsid protein and 77 spike protein and online questionnaires. **Results:** The mean age of the population was 41 (SD 8.8) years, 72% were male and 76% had 78 no comorbidity. Seroconversion was identified in 1.05% of the study population at the 3-79 month visit and in 0.73% at the 6-month visit, resulting in an infection rate of 1.8% over a 80 time period of 6 months. In comparison, the infection rate in the general population over the 81 same time period was higher (3.18%, P=0.018). At the 6-month visit, 77.8% of participants 82 reported being vaccinated once and 70.5% twice; 81% had an anti-S antibody titer of >250 83 U/mL and 87.1% of  $\geq 2$  U/mL. No significant association between infection and job role 84 within the department, working region, or years of experience in the job was found. Anti-85 spike antibody titers of vaccinated study participants showed a calculated decreasing trend 86 150 to 200 days after the second vaccine dose. 87 *Conclusion:* These data confirm the value of the vaccination campaign in an exposed group 88 other than healthcare professionals. 89

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# 91 Keywords

92 SARS-CoV-2; anti-S-antibodies; anti-NCP-antibodies; COVID-19 seroprevalence.

# 93 Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has ignited social unrest, including domestic violence, a surge in 94 COVID-19 denials, and anti-masking and anti-vaccine protests worldwide [2-4]. It is 95 reasonable to postulate that police officers, in particular those working in the field, are an 96 exposure population. To assess the risk for SARS-CoV-2 infection in this group, since 97 February 2021, we have been studying a cohort of individuals employed by the Cantonal 98 99 Police Bern in Switzerland [5]. The seroprevalence of anti-nucleocapsid antibodies in the police cohort before initiating a vaccine program was 12.9% [1]. In March 2021, a 100 101 vaccination campaign for their employees was promoted by the Cantonal Police Bern. Here, we present the COVID-19 infection and vaccination rate 3 and 6 months after initiating the 102 cohort, and the dynamics of anti-spike antibody levels in vaccinated individuals. In addition, 103 104 a comparison between the infection rates in the police cohort and the general population was 105 made to estimate the success of the vaccine campaign.

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#### 107 Methods

*Cohort*: The study protocol is aligned with that of the WHO for population-based agestratified seroepidemiological investigations [6], adapted for the specific population and
geographic region in our study. The population involved in the PoliCOV-19 study has been
published previously [1], and included after 6 months 1022 study participants (Appendices,
Figure S1).

*SARS-CoV-2 exposure*: The series of COVID-19 waves in our region since the onset of the
pandemic and the time points of cross-sectional analysis are shown in Figure 1. During the
study period, there was no government-ordered lockdown. Wearing face masks for
employees of the Cantonal Police Bern was made mandatory during working hours (indoor
and outdoor) on October 13, 2020. On June 26, 2021, an exemption was introduced: Wearing

- 118 face masks was not mandatory for employees of the police within protected indoor rooms of
- the police departments, under the precondition that a physical distance of 1.5 meters was
- 120 ascertained. For all other circumstances, mask-wearing remained mandatory.
- 121 SARS-CoV-2 variants: From mid-February to the end of June 2021, the SARS-CoV-2 Alpha
- variant (B.1.1.7) was dominant in Switzerland until its replacement by the Delta variant
- 123 (B.1.617.2, all subvariants AY), which became predominant in late June 2021 [7].
- 124 *Time points of cross-sectional analysis*: The baseline investigation was performed in
- 125 January/February and published elsewhere [1]. The 3-month follow-up visit was performed in
- 126 April/May, and the 6-month follow-up in September 2021 (Figure 1).
- 127 *Questionnaires*: During every cross-sectional analysis of the cohort (i.e.; every 3 months), an
- 128 online questionnaire was sent to study participants. The questionnaire aligned to the survey
- tools recommended by the WHO [8], and a questionnaire used by the Swiss Medical
- 130 Association (FMH) to evaluate COVID-19 among physicians in Switzerland [9], and then
- adapted for police officers. It inquired job-related activity, possible COVID-19 contact,
- 132 symptoms consistent with COVID-19, contact with presumed or confirmed cases, quarantine,
- and nasopharyngeal test results and vaccination status.
- 134 *Antibody tests*: SARS-CoV-2 antibodies to the nucleocapsid protein (NCP) and spike (S)
- 135 protein were measured by using two commercially available immunoassays (Roche
- 136 Diagnostics, Rotkreuz, Switzerland). To increase the specificity of anti-S antibody test
- 137 results, we chose a cutoff value of  $\geq 2$  U/mL [10], instead of  $\geq 0.8$  U/mL, as recommended by
- the manufacturer.
- 139 COVID-19 infection definition in the cohort: COVID-19 infection was defined as
- 140 seroconversion of anti-NCP antibodies or a self-reported PCR test from a nasopharyngeal
- 141 swab in the questionnaire. To identify false-positive serological results, we contacted all
- 142 individuals with anti-NCP antibody seroconversion and reinvestigated the cases. Samples

with low titer results from individuals with no symptoms or negative nasopharyngeal PCR 143 test results were reanalyzed with a second and different anti-NCP antibody assay (Bio-Rad, 144 Marnes-la-Coquette, France). In the case of seronegative results with the second assay, the 145 serum test result was considered as a possible or likely false-positive result. Serological 146 results from individuals with a self-reported positive nasopharyngeal PCR test result and 147 without symptoms and without anti-NCP seroconversion were considered as possible or 148 149 likely false-negative cases if the time interval between PCR test result and serum sampling was  $\geq 14$  days. 150

151 The infection rate in the general population: New infection cases in the general population 152 are defined as laboratory-confirmed cases (positive PCR test from nasopharyngeal or saliva 153 sample). The data were obtained from the Federal Office of Public Health [11]. The canton of 154 Bern consists of more than 1,043,000 inhabitants; the age-matched population for this study 155 consisted of 671'678 registered inhabitants at the 3 month-visit and 669'243 at the 6-month 156 visit.

157 *COVID-19 vaccine:* The messenger RNA vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are 158 authorized and approved for use in Switzerland. The vaccination campaign of the police was 159 promoted from March 12<sup>th</sup> till June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (**Figure 1**).

*Primary endpoint:* The primary endpoint was the infection rate in the police cohort at the 3-month and 6-month visit.

162 Secondary endpoints: The secondary endpoints included the comparisons of the infection

rates between the police cohort and the general population at the 3-month and 6-month visits,

the association of age, comorbidity, job role (i.e.; mainly fieldwork or mainly office work),

165 working department, working region, and years of experience with the infection rate.

166 Secondary endpoints included further the proportions of vaccinated individuals and those

167 with anti-S antibody titers  $\geq 2$  U/mL in the cohort at the 6-month visit. In vaccinated

individuals, the time interval from vaccination to the calculated trend of anti-S antibody titers
falling below 250 U/mL was defined as a secondary endpoint.

Statistical analysis: To describe the characteristics of the study cohort, we used mean  $\pm$ 170 standard deviation (SD) or median with interquartile range for summarizing continuous 171 variables, as appropriate. Comparisons were made by using the Student t-test or Mann-Whitney 172 test, respectively. Categorical data were shown as numbers with percentages and compared by 173 using Fisher's exact test for binary variables or the chi-squared test for more than two 174 categories. The Chi-squared test of homogeneity was used to compare new infection rates 175 176 between the police cohort and the Bernese general population (binary variables). The comparisons included both the overall infection rates and were matched by age groups 177 according to the following categories: 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60-69 years. For 178 comparative analysis to identify groups at risk for infection, the variables comorbidity, working 179 department, and working region were combined with age groups and years of experience within 180 the police department. The latter was categorized as 0–9, 10–19, 20–29, and 30 or more years 181 of experience. 182

183 Generalized additive models were used to estimate the trend of the anti-S antibody titers over184 time after vaccination. All analyses were performed with R (version 3.6.2).

#### **Results** 185

The mean age of the 1022 study participants was 41 (SD 8.8) years, 72% were male and 76% 186 had no comorbidity; 58.3% (560) of study participants indicated that their main activity was 187 fieldwork [1]. The numbers of samples analyzed at baseline, 3-month visit and 6-month visit 188 were 978, 997, and 982, respectively. The presence or absence of seroconversion between the 189 baseline and 3-month visit was investigated in 956 paired samples, and between the 3-month 190 191 and 6-month visits in 955 paired samples. The seroprevalences of anti-NCP antibodies without adjusting for paired sample results or false positive or false negative results - were 192 193 12.9% at baseline [1], 14.4% at the 3-month visit, and 15.3% at the 6-month visit (Appendices, Figure S2). 194 Primary endpoint - COVID-19 infection in the cohort: Seroconversion was identified in 195 1.05% (10/956) at the 3-month visit (Table 1A) and in 1.15% (11/955) at the 6-month visit 196 (Table 1B). At the 3-month visit, no false-positive results were detected; at the 6-month-visit, 197 4 of the11 positive results were likely false-positive results (Table 1B). Therefore, the 198 proportion of individuals with seroconversion at 6 months was adjusted from 1.15% (11/955) 199 to 0.73% (7/955). The seroprevalence after excluding non-paired samples was adjusted to 200 13.95% at the 3-month-visit, and 14.7% at the 6-month visit. 201 No breakthrough infections were seen after two doses of vaccination. Six of ten infections at 202 the 3-month visit (Table 1A), and three infections at the 6-month visit occurred in non-203

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individuals between the first and the second dose of the vaccine. 205

Secondary endpoints: 206

COVID-19 infection proportions in the cohort in comparison to the ones in the general 207

vaccinated individuals (Table 1B). The remaining infections occurred in vaccinated

population: In the police cohort, the increase in seroprevalence at 6-month was 1.80% in 208

comparison to the baseline (i.e., from 12.9% to 14.7%), and 0.73% in comparison to the 3-209

month visit (i.e., from 13.95% to 14.7%). These values were significantly lower in
comparison to the increase of the calculated infection rate of the general population (in
comparison to the 6-month span: 1.8% versus 3.18%, *P*=0.018; in comparison to 3-month
span: 0.73% versus 1.77%, *P*=0.021). After matching for age groups, the infection rate was
lower in the police cohort than that in the general population, though not statistically
significant (Appendices, Figures S3-1 and S3-2).

No statistically significant difference was seen in the subgroup analysis when comparing
police officers involved in the fieldwork activity and the age-matched general population. No
statistically significant association was found in the comparative analysis, including
comorbidity, job role within the department, and years of experience (Appendices, Table
S1).

Vaccination rate and anti-spike antibody titers in the cohort: At the 6-month visit, 77.8% of 221 participants reported being vaccinated once and 70.5% twice; 81% had an anti-S antibody 222 titer of >250 U/mL and 87.1% of  $\geq$ 2 U/mL (Figure 2). The proportion of individuals with 223 anti-S antibody titers >250 U/mL likely represented most of the the vaccinated group because 224 it included responders and non-responders of questionnaires. The proportions of these 225 parameters among police officers mainly involved in fieldwork and those mainly involved in 226 office work were similar; 85.0% and 84.5% (P=0.9), respectively, reported being vaccinated 227 once, 79.3% and 79.4%% (P=1.0) reported being vaccinated twice, 84.6% and 83.6% 228 229 (P=0.748) had an anti-S antibody titer of >250 U/mL, and 90.2% and 88.1% (P=0.377), respectively, had an anti-S antibody titer  $\geq 2$  U/mL. The group with anti-S antibody titers of 230  $\geq$ 2 U/mL consisted of the proportions of both, individuals who were vaccinated and those 231 232 who had recovered from COVID-19 irrespective of vaccination status.

- 233 Two (0.3%) double-vaccinated and immunocompromised individuals did not show anti-S
- antibodies at the time of point serum sampling. Fifty-six (5.7%) of the study participants were

seropositive and reported not being vaccinated.

- 236 Dynamics of anti-S antibody levels: Anti-S antibody titers of vaccinated study participants
- showed a calculated decreasing trend after 150 to 200 days (Figure 3).
- 238

#### 239 **Discussion**

240 In this cohort study, we noted a low infection rate and a relatively high vaccination rate

among police officers. Despite a presumed higher exposure to SARS-CoV-2, in particular for

242 police officers mainly involved in the fieldwork activity, the overall infection rate was not

higher than in the general population. Finally, 150 to 200 days after vaccination, a decreasing

- trend in anti-S antibody titers was observed, underscoring the necessity of a booster vaccine
- four to six months after the second dose.

246 Law enforcement personnel face physical and psychological challenges during the COVID-

247 19 pandemic [12, 13]. Their exposure to SARS-CoV-2 and possible risk of transmission

248 during working hours (e.g.; in attendance of public protests) have been scarcely investigated.

249 Seroprevalence studies are useful means to estimate the true extent of SARS-CoV-2 infection

among a population [14, 15]. Few seroprevalence studies focused on public safety personnel

251 [16-22]. Garbarino et al. [20] reported an overall seroprevalence of 4.8% in 10'535 police

officers in Italy, with a higher seroprevalence in northern (9%) than in southern regions

253 (1.6%).

In our cohort, the seroprevalence at the baseline was 12.9% in February 2021, similar to that reported in the general population [1]. The self-reported compliance with mask-wearing during working hours was very high. The results suggested that household contacts were the leading transmission venues. Regional differences in the seroprevalence were observed, and

police officers mainly working in the field were more frequently seropositive than those 258 mainly working in the office [1]. In this study, the cohort was followed for 6 months. The 259 regional and job-related differences in seroprevalence within the cohort waned over this time 260 period. However, at the 6-month visit, the infection rate was lower in the cohort than the one 261 in the general population (1.8% versus 3.18%, P=0.018). The true difference was likely more 262 pronounced, considering that the observation in the police cohort was more precise than the 263 264 one in the general population and that the numbers in the general population are likely underestimated. Although the difference in the proportion of the infection rate between the 265 266 police cohort and the general population was minor, the calculated absolute number of individuals in the entire population is considerable. 267

In our view, the differences in COVID-19 infection rates are likely explained by the high 268 compliance of police officers with hygiene precautions and mask-wearing with contacts, and 269 270 by the relatively high vaccination rate. Previous studies have shown the efficacy of COVID-19 messenger RNA vaccines [23]. McLaughlin et al. [24] calculated in a negative binomial 271 regression model that US counties with >80% of vaccine-eligible persons fully vaccinated 272 had 30% lower rates of COVID-19 cases and 46% lower rates of COVID-19-related deaths 273 compared to US counties with <50% vaccine coverage. The vaccination rate in the police 274 cohort was more than 80% when considering the responses in the questionnaires and the 275 proportions of individuals with anti-S antibody titers of >250 U/mL. A high proportion of 276 study participants were vaccinated before the 4<sup>th</sup> wave of the pandemic. This proportion is 277 higher than the one reported for the general population. For comparison, 54%-64% of the 278 general population received at least 1 dose, and 58%-59% received 2 doses of COVID-19 279 280 vaccine in Switzerland in September 2021 [11]. These proportions include elderly individuals who were prioritized in the vaccine distribution. Thus, the age-matched differences in the 281 vaccine rate between the police cohort and the general population were likely higher because 282

retired individuals were not included in the police cohort while they were included in the vaccination registry of the general population. The lower proportion of vaccination in the general population cannot be explained by the accessibility to the vaccine. In Switzerland, the priority for receiving a vaccine depended on the risk of a severe course of COVID-19 and immune status. Because vaccination is not mandatory, individuals who are skeptical about the COVID-19 vaccine can refuse to be vaccinated.

289 The overall proportion of individuals with antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 in the police cohort – defined as the proportion of individuals with anti-S antibody titer  $\geq 2 \text{ U/mL} - \text{was}$ 290 291 87.1% in September 2021. Similar to other studies [25], we observed a waning humoral response after vaccination. In our previous baseline study [1], we demonstrated that the 292 neutralization capacity of naturally acquired antibodies decreased with emerging of new 293 294 variants of SARS-CoV-2, and that neutralization correlated with the extent of antibody titer. 295 Vaccine efficacy decreases over time [26, 27]. A vaccine booster dose increases the antibody neutralization level and leads to increased protection against infection of the delta variant and 296 severe illness [28, 29]. However, this effect is likely not durable. In the police cohort, the 297 calculated population curve of the sample results indicated a decrease in anti-S antibody titers 298 below 250 U/mL approximately 150 to 200 days after vaccination. The aforementioned 299 arguments together with these results justified promoting a booster vaccination (third dose) 300 campaign. 301

Our study has limitations. The statistically significant difference in infection rate between the police cohort and the general population is arguable because it was only seen in the overall analysis but not in the age-matched comparison. We were unable to exclude the infection rate in risk groups within the general population, considering that the police cohort consists of predominantly healthy individuals. However, the true infection rate in the general population is likely underestimated. We were unable to identify an infection in individuals without self-

reported nasopharyngeal sample test results and at least two serum (paired) samples over the 308 6 months (i.e.; to detect seroconversion). We believe that our results are representative, 309 considering that in more than 95% of study participants two or three serum samples were 310 available. The time points for blood sampling and sending out questionnaires were predefined 311 in the study protocol. Hence, the dynamics of antibody titers over time are biased by these 312 sampling time points. The COVID-19 infection rate in the police cohort was evaluated by 313 314 self-reported PCR test results and seroconversion in serum samples. The infection rate in the general population was evaluated by analyzing laboratory-confirmed cases that were reported 315 316 daily by the Federal Office of Public Health. Despite using two different methodologies, we were able to statistically homogenize these results for comparison. We are unable to perform 317 antibody titer dynamic analysis at very high titer levels, because of the upper quantification 318 319 limit of the anti-S antibody assay (i.e.; >250 U/mL).

320 In conclusion, our COVID-19 cross-sectional surveys among police officers demonstrated an increase in seroprevalence from 12.9% to 14.7% in 6 months. The increase was lower than 321 the laboratory confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection rate observed in the general population. 322 During the same period, we observed a relatively high vaccination rate of approximately 323 80%. In contrast to the pre-vaccination analysis at baseline, no significant association with 324 the job role within the department or working regions was observed. The observed waning 325 humoral response 150 to 200 days after vaccination together with results from other studies 326 327 showing the efficacy of a third dose, supported a further campaign for a booster vaccination. The results of the cross-sectional surveys at the 9- and 12-months visit are currently being 328 analyzed. 329

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3-month visit: 10 (1.05%) newly identified COVID-19 infections in 956 study participants with samples at baseline and 3-month visits.										
Record ID	Symptoms consistent with COVID-19	NSP swab	Seroconversion Dates of sampling <sup>1</sup>	Anti-NCP (COI) <sup>2</sup>	Anti-S (U/mL) <sup>2</sup>	Vaccinated	1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose		
43 <sup>¥</sup>	Yes (Onset: April 10)	Negative	March 4 / May 4	176	>250	Yes	March 26	May 4		
118	Yes (Onset: February 14)	Negative	March 4 / May 4	45.1	>250	Yes	April 10	May 10		
123	No, and no known or traceable contacts	Not tested	Feb 16 / May 4	104	>250	Yes	March 10	May 14		
130	No	Positive March 20	Feb 16 / May 11	106	104	No	-	-		
291	Yes	Positive April 21	Feb 26 / June 11	123	154	No	-	-		
702	Yes	Positive February 27	March 9 / April 27	4.2	74.4	No	-	-		
739	Yes (Onset: March 22)	Negative	Feb 23 / April 26	93.2	25.7	No	-	-		
771	Yes (Onset: End of February)	Negative	March 4 / May 12	12.5	>250	Yes	May 5	-		
813	Yes	Positive March 30	Feb 25 / April 26	135	>250	No	-	-		
979	Yes	Positive April 12	March 4 / April 27	128	18.1	No	-	-		

# 417 Table 1A: Newly identified COVID-19 cases between baseline (February/March 2021) and the 3-month visit (April/May 2021).

418 Abbreviations: Anti-NCP, anti-nucleocapsid antibodies; Anti-S, anti-spike protein antibodies; NSP, nasopharyngeal swab testing (PCR in case of a positive

419 result; antigen test or PCR in case of a negative result, self-reported results); COI, cut-off index.

420 <sup>1</sup> The first date is the date of sampling at baseline (seronegative); the second date is the date of sampling at the 3-month visit (seropositive).

421 <sup>2</sup> Results at the 3-month visit; results at baseline are not shown because they are seronegative.

422  ${}^{\text{*}}$  COVID-19 disease between the first and second vaccination dose.

423 Table 1B: Newly identified COVID-19 cases between the 3-month (April/May) and the 6-month visit (September 2021).

424

6-month visit: 11 (1.15%) newly identified COVID-19 infections in 955 study participants with samples at 3-month and 6-month visits. Four results									
are possibly or likely false positive (i.e., 7 [0.73%] newly identified COVID-19 infections).									
Record	Symptoms consistent with COVID-19	NSP swab	Seroconversion	Anti-NCP	Anti-S	Vaccinated	1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	
ID			Dates of sampling <sup>1</sup>	(COI) <sup>2</sup>	(U/mL)				
31¥	Yes (Onset: April 22)	Negative	April 27 / Sept 8	16.4	>250	Yes	March 29	April 30	
195	No, and no known or traceable contacts	Not tested	April 27 / Sept 8	14.4	>250	Yes	April 27	May 25	
220 <sup>±</sup>	Yes (Onset: August 27)	Negative	May 7 / Sept 8	2.1 <sup>±</sup>	>250	Yes	April 19	May 17	
$245^{\pm}$	No, and no known or traceable contacts	Not tested	April 28 / Sept 10	$1.0^{\pm}$	0.4	No	-	-	
$322^{\pm}$	No, and no known or traceable contacts	Not tested	April 27 / Sept 9	$1.3^{\pm}$	>250	Yes	April 27	May 24	
380 <sup>¥</sup>	Yes (Onset: Mid-May)	Positive	May 7 / Sept 20	29.2	>250	Yes	April 20	Sept 27	
		May 10							
465	No, and no known or traceable contacts	Not tested	April 30 / Sept 9	23.7	>250	Yes	April 20	May 20	
610	Yes	Positive	May 6 / Oct 26	135	30	No	-	-	
		August 21							
717	Yes (Onset: September)	Negative	April 26 / Oct 29	23.2	>250	No	_	-	
841	Yes	Positive	April 9 / Sept 27	11.2	>250	Yes	April 9	May 27	
		Sept 14							
933 <sup>±</sup>	No, and no known or traceable contacts	Not tested	April 26 / Sept 21	3.3 <sup>±</sup>	>250	Yes	April 23	May 21	

425 Abbreviations: Anti-NCP, anti-nucleocapsid antibodies; Anti-S, anti-spike protein antibodies; NSP, nasopharyngeal swab testing (PCR in case of a positive

426 result; antigen test or PCR in case of a negative result, self-reported results), COI, cut-off index.

427 <sup>1</sup> The first date is the date of sampling at the 3-month visit (seronegative); the second date is the date of sampling at the 6-month visit (seropositive).

428 <sup>2</sup> Results at the 6-month visit; results at the 3-month visit are not shown because they are seronegative.

429  ${}^{\text{*}}$  COVID-19 disease between the first and second vaccination dose.

430 <sup>¥¥</sup> SARS-CoV-2 infection after the second possible vaccination dose (vaccine breakthrough infection).

431 <sup>±</sup>False-positive anti-NCP result possible or likely

432

434 **Figure legends** 

435

- 436 Figure 1: Series of COVID-19 waves in the canton of Bern (Switzerland) since the onset of
- 437 the pandemic and the time points of cross-sectional analysis of the PoliCOV-19 study. Figure
- 438 obtained and adapted from open-source data, available at https://covid-
- 439 <u>kennzahlen.apps.be.ch/#/de/cockpit</u> (last accessed Dec 29, 2021).

440

- 441 Figure 2: Cumulative proportion of vaccinated individuals in the police cohort
- 442 who were vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19. The proportion of individuals with anti-
- 443 S antibody titers >250 U/mL likely represented the vaccinated group because it included
- 444 responders and non-responders of questionnaires. The group with anti-S antibody titers of  $\geq 2$
- 445 U/mL consisted of the proportions of both, individuals who were vaccinated and those who
- had recovered from COVID-19 irrespective of vaccination status. The timeline is biased by

the time point of serum sampling and filling out questionnaires.

448

Figure 3: Calculated trend of anti-S antibody titer curve over time in vaccinated study
participants. Each dot reflects the sampling time point. The dynamics of antibody titers over
time are biased by the sampling time points.

# SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL to Original Article – Version 24-March-2022

# High Vaccination and Low SARS-CoV-2 Infection Rate in a Swiss Police Cohort During the Delta Wave.

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# Content

Page 3: **Appendices Figure S1:** The population involved in the PoliCOV-19 study has been published previously (Open Forum Infect Dis. 2021 Oct 16;8(12):ofab524. doi: 10.1093/ofid/ofab524), and included after 6 months 1022 study participants

Page 4: **Appendices Figure S2:** Anti-NCP antibody seroprevalence of the police cohort at baseline and 3- and 6-month visits, without correcting for paired samples, false positive or false negative results.

Page 5: **Appendices Figure S3-1:** Comparison of the SARS-CoV-2 infection rate between the police cohort and the general population of the canton of Bern. Comparisons between the infection rates at the 3-month and 6-month visits.

Page 6: **Appendices Figure S3-2:** Comparison of the SARS-CoV-2 infection rate between the police cohort and the general population of the canton of Bern over a time period of 6 months (i.e., from February to September 2021).

Page 7: **Supplementary Table S1:** Association of comorbidity and work-related factors with the infection rate:

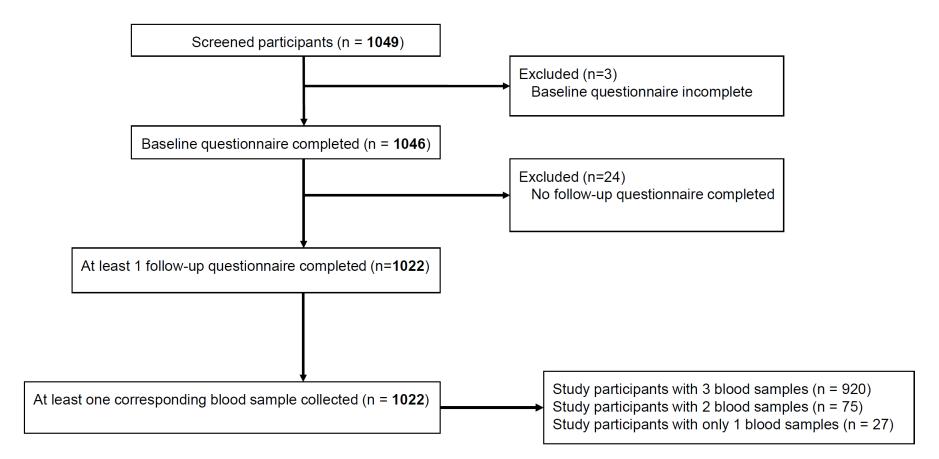
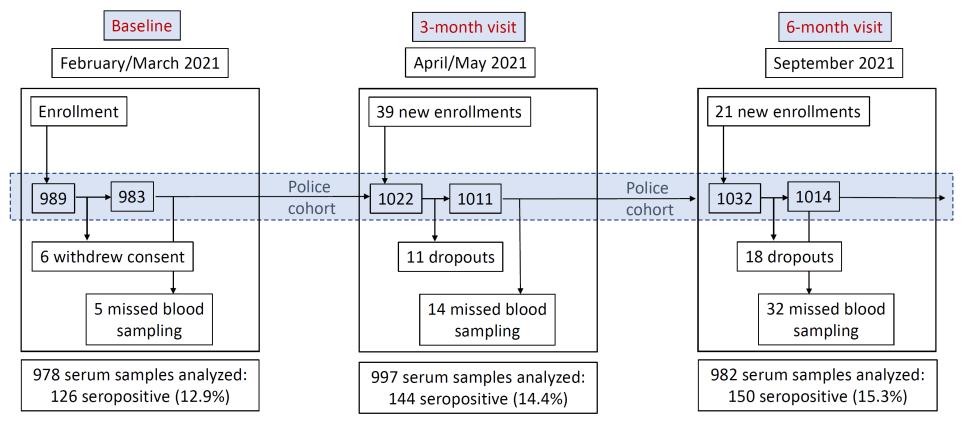
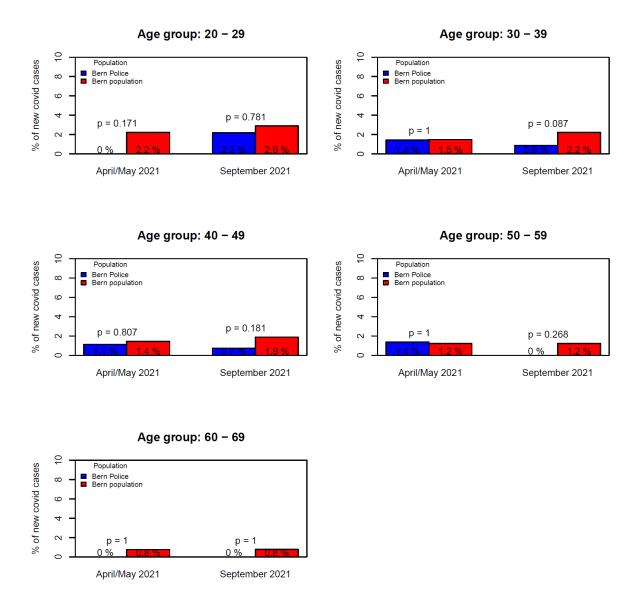


Figure S1: Number of individuals included in the cohort analysis between January/February and September 2021 (n = 1022)

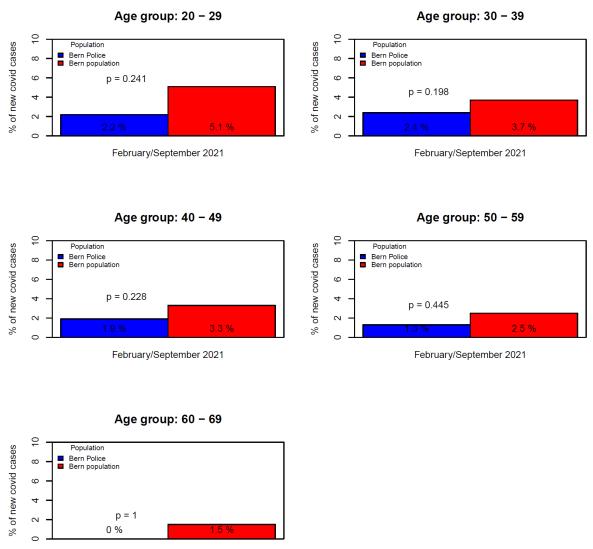
Appendices Figure S2 : Anti-NCP antibody seroprevalence of the police cohort at baseline and 3- and 6-month visits.



Anti-NCP antibody seroprevalence of the police cohort at the baseline, 3-month and 6 month-visits. Results are displayed without correcting for the sensitivity and specificity of the anti-NCP antibody assay (i.e.; unadjusted seroprevalence).



**Appendices Figure S3-1**: Comparison of the SARS-CoV-2 infection rate between the police cohort and the general population of the canton of Bern. Comparisons between the infection rates at the 3-month (April/May 2021) and 6-month visits (September 2021).



February/September 2021

**Appendices Figure S3-2**: Comparison of the SARS-CoV-2 infection rate between the police cohort and the general population of the canton of Bern over a time period of 6 months (i.e., from February to September 2021).

	Comorbidity							
		Yes		No				
Age group	beta	Odds ratio	p-value	beta	Odds ratio	p-value		
20 - 29	ref			ref				
30 - 39	17.168	28578730	0.999	0.025	1.025	0.938		
40 - 49	0	1	1	-0.161	0.851	0.629		
50 - 59	18.131	74849054	0.999	-0.092	0.912	0.805		
60 - 69	0	1	1	-0.297	0.743	0.788		
Intercept	-19.566	0	0.999	-1.649	0.192	<0.001		
			Depart	ment				
		Regional police			Others			
Years of								
experience	beta	Odds ratio	p-value	beta	Odds ratio	p-value		
0 - 9	ref			ref				
10 - 19	-0.266	0.766	0.285	0.491	1.634	0.297		
20 - 29	0.144	1.155	0.653	0.498	1.645	0.32		
> 30	0.175	1.191	0.739	-0.954	0.385	0.384		
Intercept	-1.561	0.21	<0.001	-2.181	0.113	<0.001		
			egion					
	B	ern City Region Ber	n	Bernese Oberland; Mittelland, Emmental,				
	Bern City, Region Bern			Oberaargau; Seeland, Bernese Jura				
Years of								
experience	beta	Odds ratio	p-value	beta	Odds ratio	p-value		
0 - 9	ref			ref				
10 - 19	-0.037	0.963	0.912	-0.167	0.846	0.541		
20 - 29	0.229	1.257	0.54	0.094	1.098	0.791		
> 30	-0.436	0.647	0.576	-0.196	0.822	0.734		
Intercept	<b>Intercept</b> -1.915 0.147			-1.462	0.232	<0.001		

Appendices Table S1: Association of comorbidity and work-related factors with the infection rate: