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# **Novavax / Sanofi 2025-2026 COVID-19 Vaccine Update**

**Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee  
May 22, 2025**

**Robert Walker, MD**  
Senior Vice President  
Chief Medical Officer  
Novavax

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Global Project Head, Vaccines  
Sanofi

# JN.1 Lineage Selection Facilitates Platform Diversity for Patient Choice and Timely Vaccine Access

## US COVID-19 Situation

COVID-19 continues to cause severe illness in the US

COVID-19 vaccination rates remain low

Protein-based vaccine is an important choice for the US population due to its tolerability and acceptability profile

## Current Surveillance

Circulating variants are within JN.1 lineage

JN.1 lineage strains have few sequence differences in spike protein

Recent strains have emerged in non-linear fashion with no common predecessor after JN.1

## Immunogenicity Data

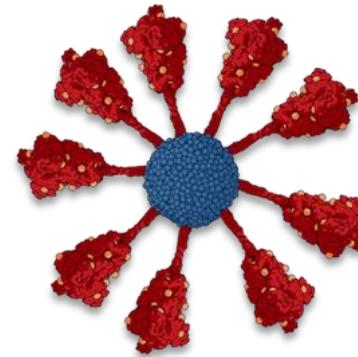
Preclinical data confirm JN.1 strain vaccination induces immunity across JN.1 lineage strains

Substantial cross reactivity is shown between strains within a lineage

Human studies confirm JN.1 strain vaccination neutralizes current and emerging variants

Data confirm JN.1 strain is an appropriate choice for 2025/26 season

# Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine: Built on Well-Established Protein Platform



Recombinant protein nanoparticle



Matrix-M®



- Recombinant protein vaccine is a proven technology (e.g., influenza, HepB), safe and effective<sup>1</sup>
- Adjuvanted to enhance immunity response resulting in a larger, broader and more durable response<sup>2</sup>
- Favorable reactogenicity and excellent efficacy profile in large, diverse patient population<sup>3</sup>

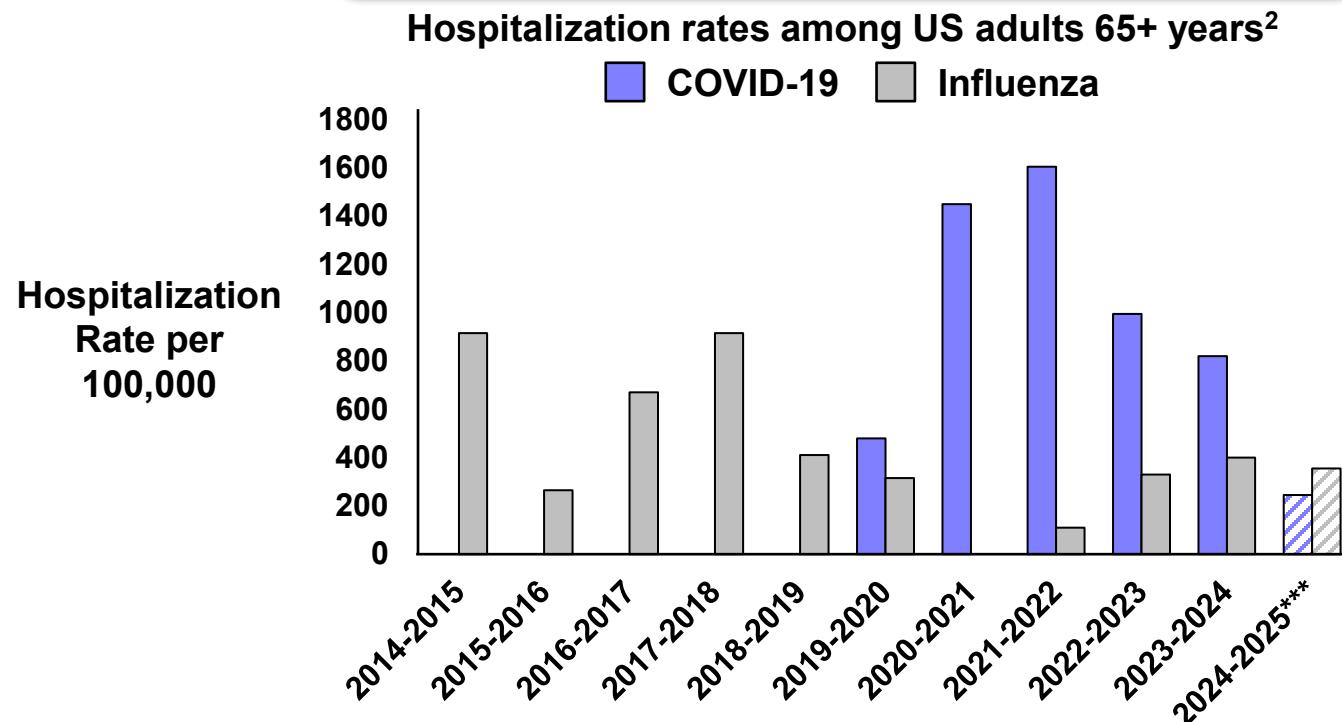
1. Cox MMJ. Recombinant protein vaccines produced in insect cells. *Vaccine*. 2012;30(10):1759-1766

2. Stertman L, et al. *Hum Vaccin Immunother*. 2023;19(1):2189885

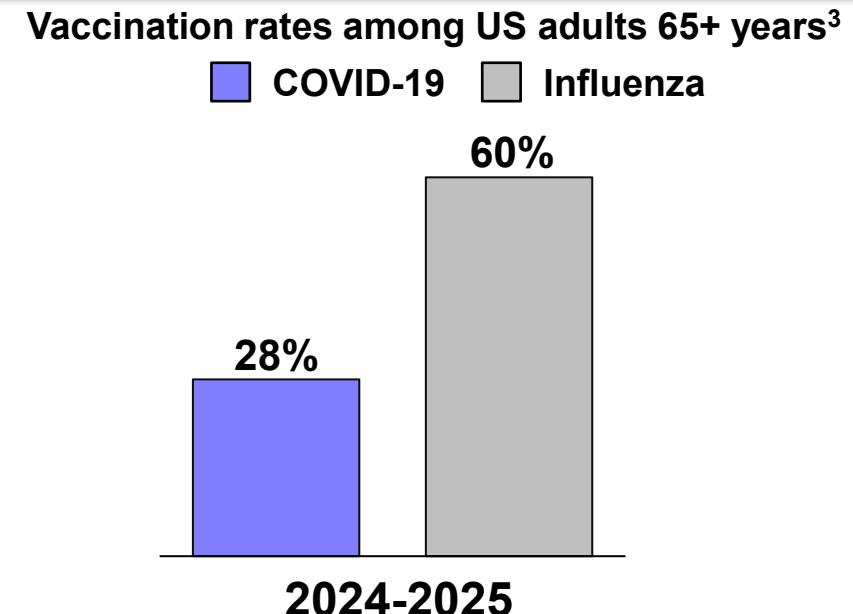
3. Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, adjuvanted (2024-2025 formula) [US EUA fact sheet]. Gaithersburg, MD: Novavax, Inc.; Oct 2024

# While COVID-19 Continues to Cause Severe Illness and Deaths, Vaccination Rates Remain Low

Cumulative COVID-19 hospitalizations  
**~75% higher** than flu over past two seasons<sup>1</sup>  
 with **>40,000 US deaths** in 2023/24<sup>2</sup>



COVID-19 vaccine coverage rates  
**<50%** of flu vaccines



1. Respiratory Virus Hospitalization Surveillance Network (RESP-NET)
2. Link-Gelles R. ACIP April 15 – 16, 2025. Workgroup considerations for use of 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccines

\*\*\*Data for 2024-2025 show data for October 2024 – March 2025 only as season is ongoing

3. Based on US Census Population & IQVIA Claims sourced from AMA physicians claims database until Feb 25.

# **Surveillance and Immunogenicity Data Support JN.1 Lineage Level Strain Selection**

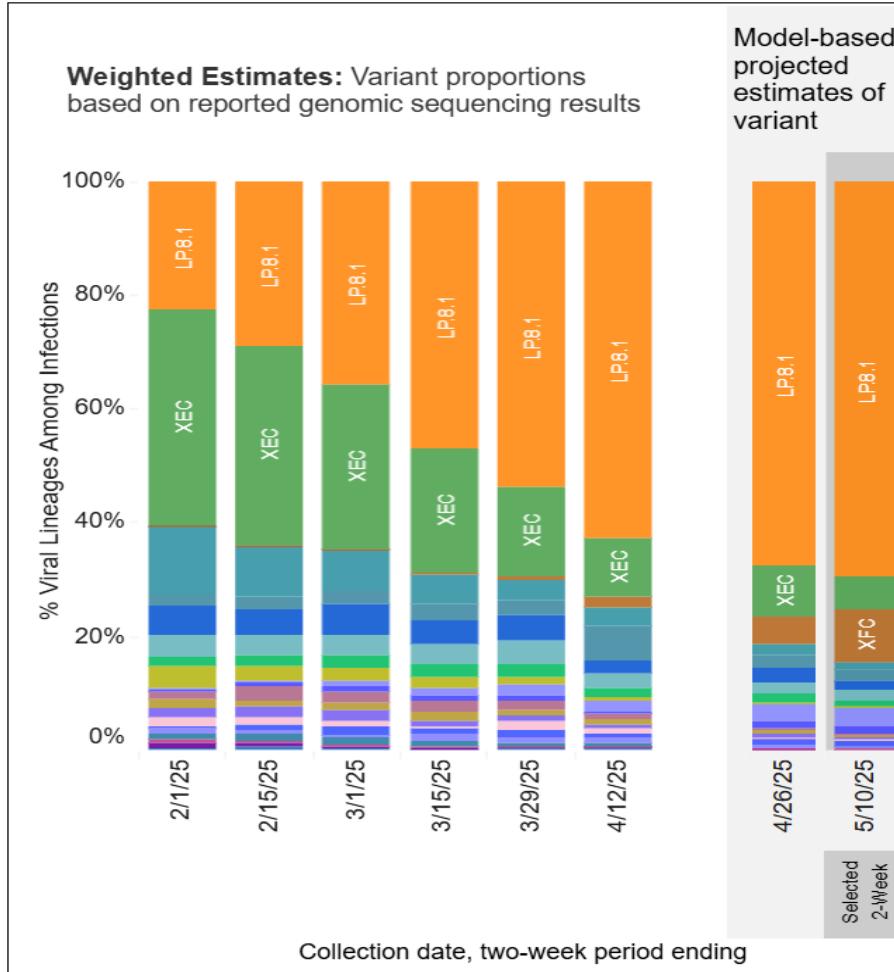
- Strain prevalence and emergence patterns
- Preclinical and clinical immunological evidence

# Currently Circulating COVID-19 Variants

## All JN.1 Lineage

### Weighted and Nowcast Estimates in US

2 Week Periods 1/19-5/10/2025

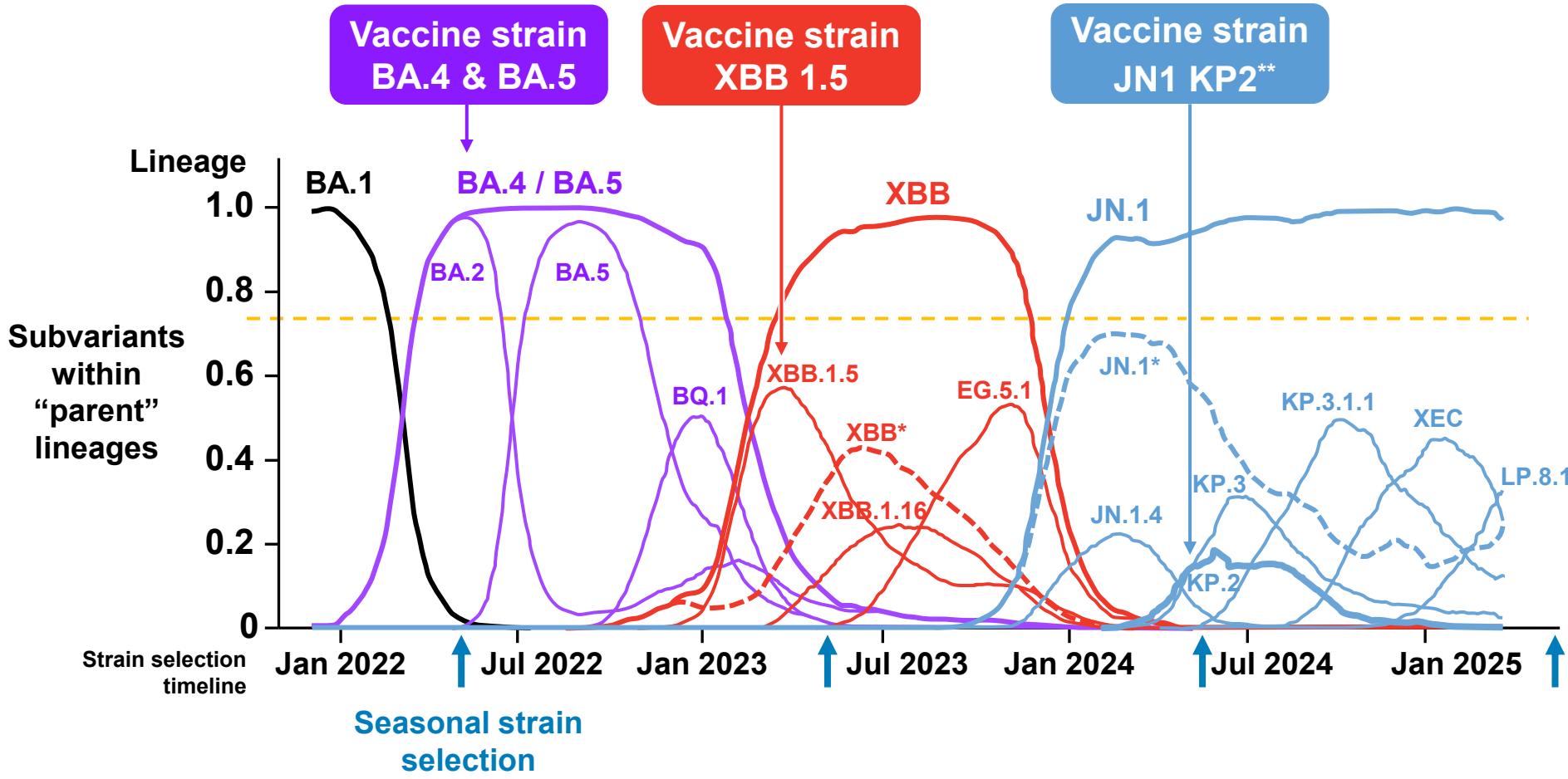


### Nowcast Estimates in US

4/27-5/10/2025

WHO label	Lineage #	% Total	95% PI
Omicron	LP8.1	70%	64–75%
	XFC	9%	4–19%
	XEC	6%	4–8%
	LF.7.7.2	3%	0–16%
	LF.7	2%	1–3%
	MC.10.1	2%	1–3%
	LB.1.3.1	2%	1–3%
	KP.3.1.1	1%	1–2%
	XEC.4	1%	1–2%
	PA.1	1%	0–3%
	LF.7.7.1	1%	1–2%
	XEQ	0%	0–1%
	LF.7.2.1	0%	0–1%
	KP.3	0%	0–1%
	XEK	0%	0–1%
	MC.1	0%	NA
	JN.1.16	0%	NA
	MC.19	0%	NA
	JN.1	0%	NA

# JN.1 Lineage Has Persisted for 18+ Months Yet One COVID Strain Is Only Prevalent for ~14 Weeks\*



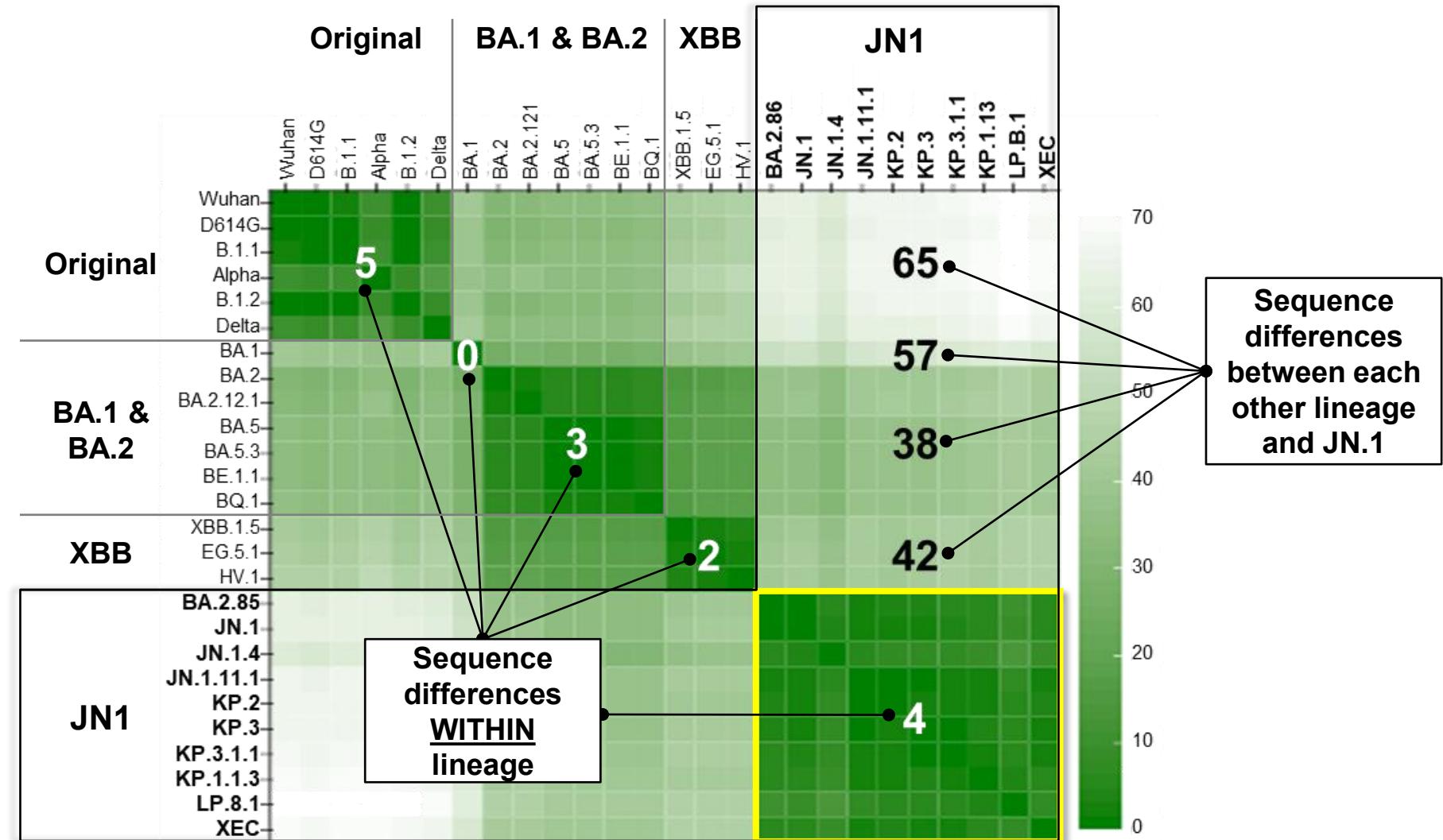
- All variants of concern are within the JN.1 lineage
- LP.8.1 is unlikely to remain the predominant strain by fall 2025

\*Ranging from 2-28 weeks

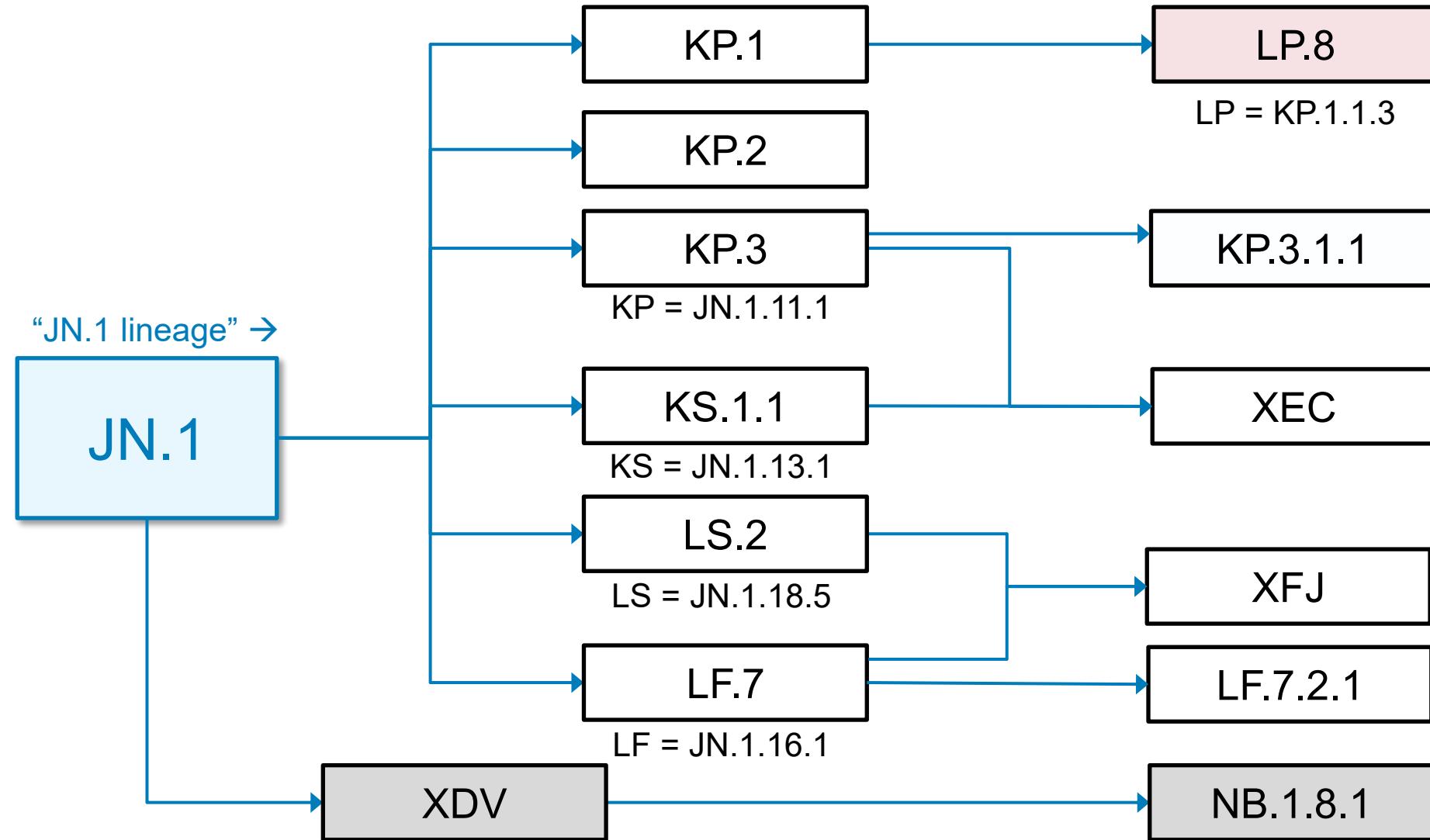
\*\*KP2 selected in US, with EU having JN1

Data in graph from <https://gisaid.org/publish/>

# Strains Within a Lineage Have Few Sequence Differences in Spike Protein

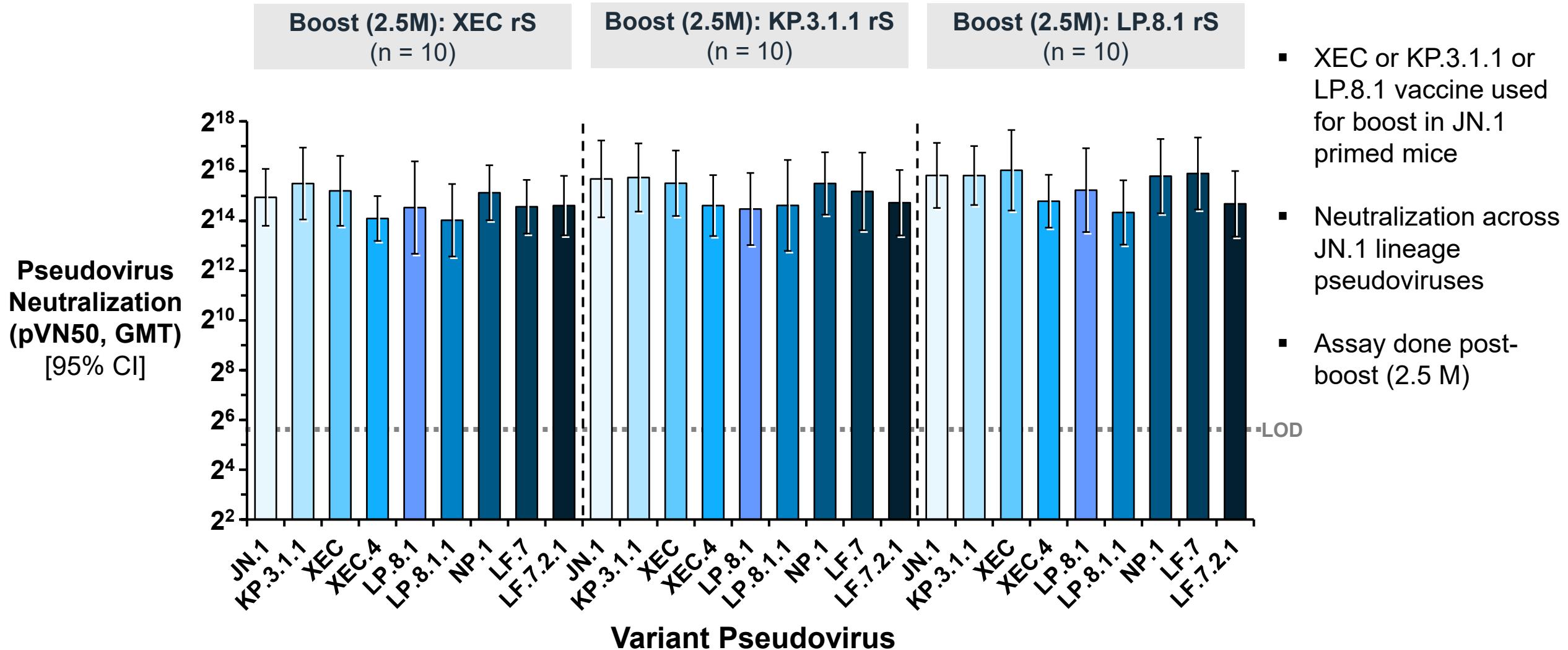


# New Variants Emerge Non-Linearly



# Substantial Cross Reactivity Within JN.1 Lineage Prime + Boost Mouse Model

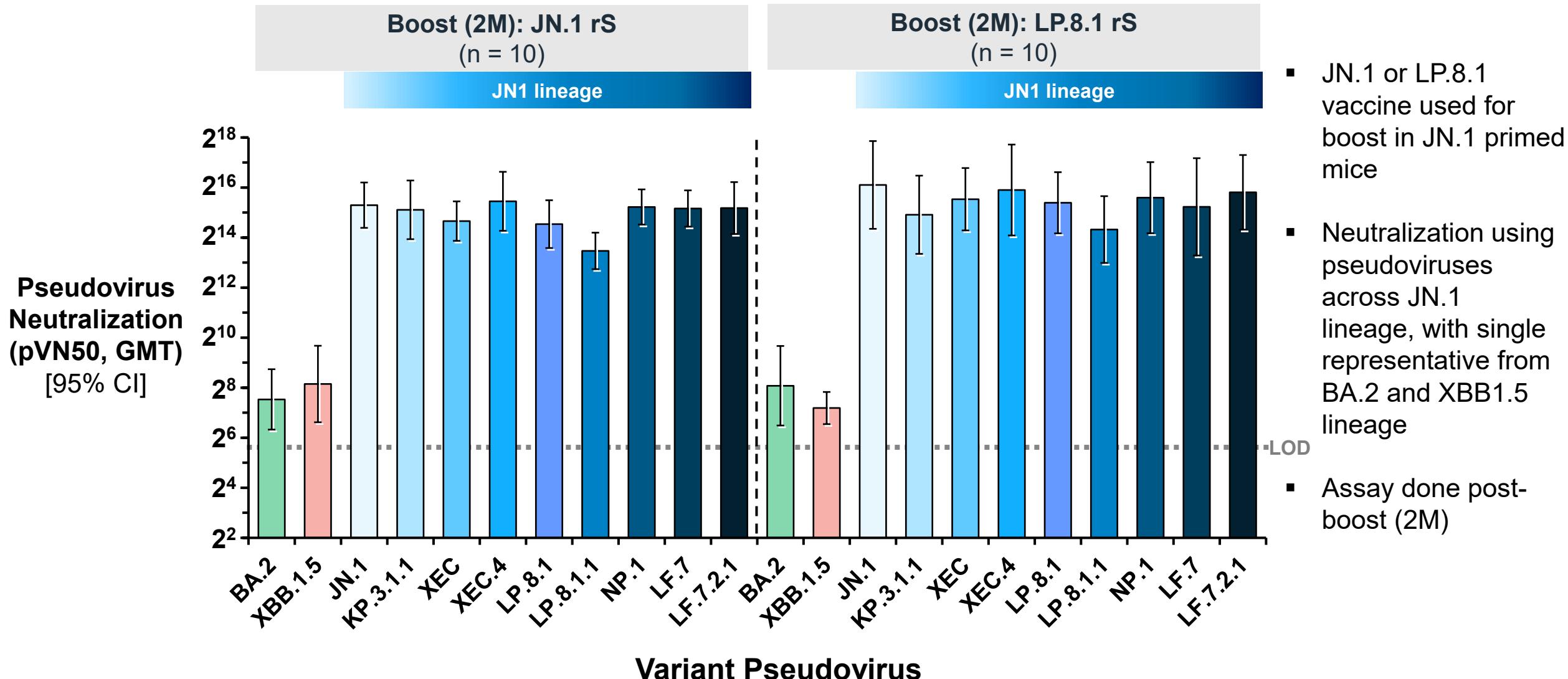
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- XEC or KP.3.1.1 or LP.8.1 vaccine used for boost in JN.1 primed mice
- Neutralization across JN.1 lineage pseudoviruses
- Assay done post-boost (2.5 M)

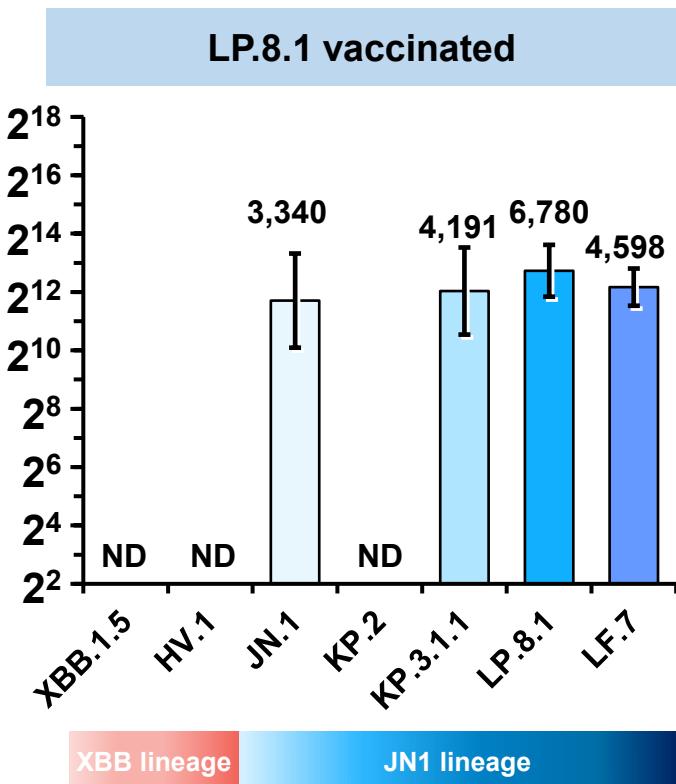
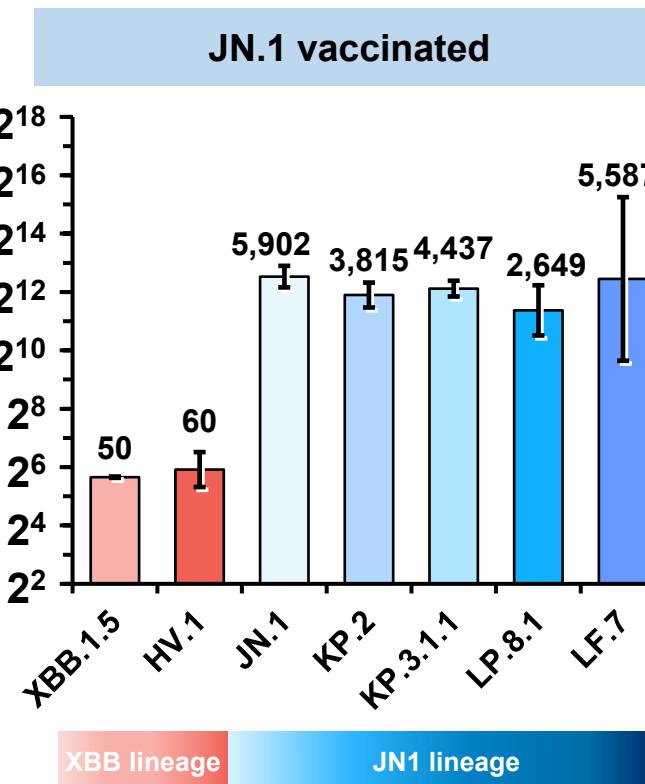
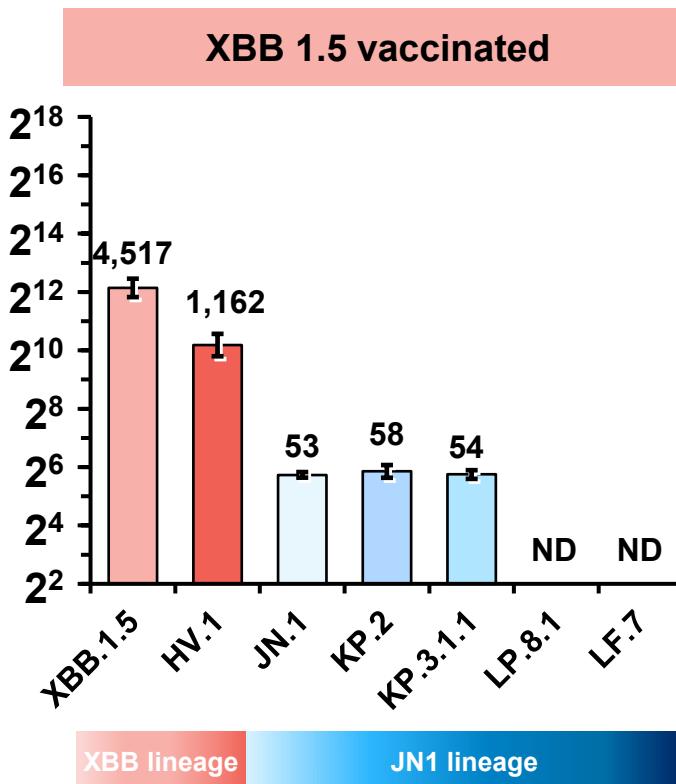
# No Substantial Cross Reactivity Across Lineages

## Prime + Boost Mouse Model



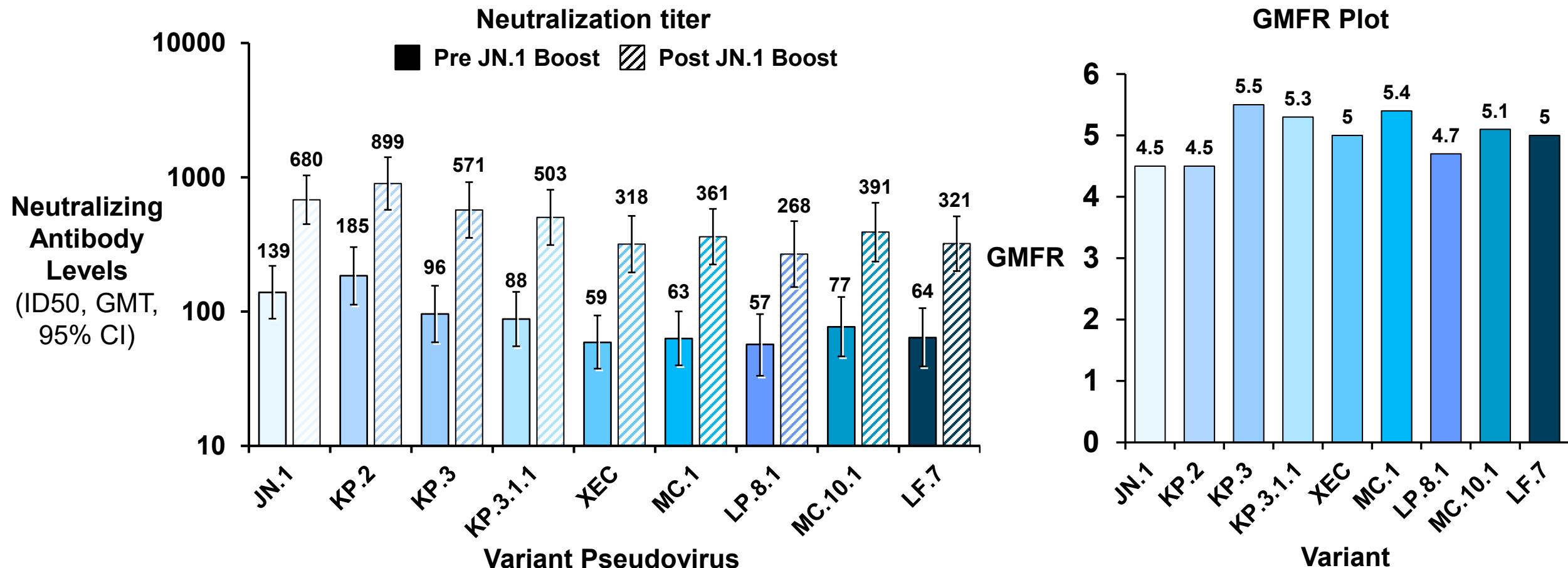
# Substantial Cross Reactivity Between Strains Within a Lineage, But Not Across Lineages

Neutralizing antibody titer 14 days post primary vaccination with JN1, XBB.1.5, or LP.8.1 in naïve mice<sup>1\*</sup>



# JN.1 Vaccination in Humans Induces Comparable Neutralizing Antibody Titers Against JN.1 Lineage Strains

Prior primary COVID-19 vaccines with single Novavax JN.1 vaccination in 2024/25 season (N = 52-60)



# JN.1 Lineage Selection Facilitates Platform Diversity for Patient Choice and Timely Vaccine Access

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Robust preclinical and clinical immunological evidence demonstrate that JN.1 covers emerging variants

Nonlinear emergence patterns coupled with short windows of strain prevalence make it impossible to correctly predict seasonal dominant strains

Lineage level strain selection provides consistent and robust approach to maximize public confidence by mitigating unpredictability of strain emergence

US consumer want a tolerable vaccine choice, as recently evidenced in the ACIP public comments session<sup>1</sup>

Totality of data support **JN.1 lineage selection without preference for any single strain** for the 2025-2026 season, enabling timely availability of protein-based COVID vaccine