



Figure S4. Evaluation of the efficiency of viral genome transcription, replication, and packaging in virus-like particles (VLPs). (a) Viral genome transcription and replication were assessed in BHK-21 cells transfected with SMG-GFP, SMG-5UTR Δ 20-40-GFP, SMG-5UTR Δ 41-60-GFP, SMG-5UTR Δ 60-77-GFP, SMG-3UTR Δ 20-38-GFP or SMG-3UTR Δ 39-60-GFP under conditions of the co-expression of NP, L protein, GPC, and Z protein. BHK-21 cells were transfected with each mutated SMG-GFP, pC-NP, pC-L, pC-Z, and pC-GPC. As a background control for the rescue of LCMV RNA analogs into VLPs, cells transfected with SMG-GFP, pC-NP, and pC-L were used [SMG-GFP (no VLPs)]. After incubation for 48 hours at 37°C with 5% CO₂, GFP expression was examined. (b) Packaging of viral genome RNA analogs derived from SMG-GFP, SMG-5UTR Δ 20-40-GFP, SMG-5UTR Δ 41-60-GFP, SMG-5UTR Δ 60-77-GFP or SMG-3UTR Δ 39-60-GFP into VLPs were assessed. Supernatants from each well of Figure S4a were harvested and used to infect fresh monolayers of BHK-21 cells, which were then incubated for 4 hours at 37°C before adding helper LCMV. Ninety hours post-infection, the passage culture was examined for GFP expression.