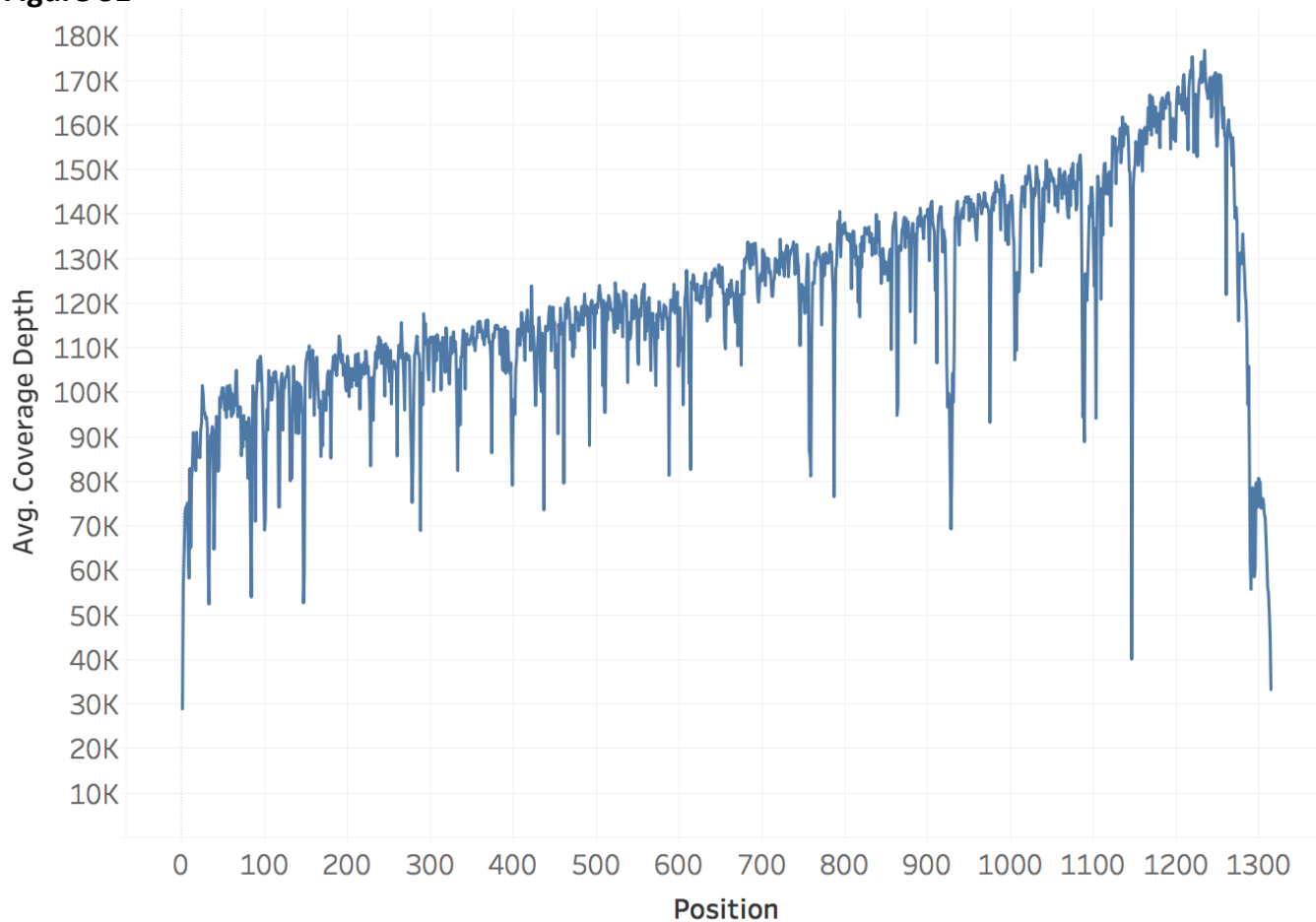


12 **Figures**

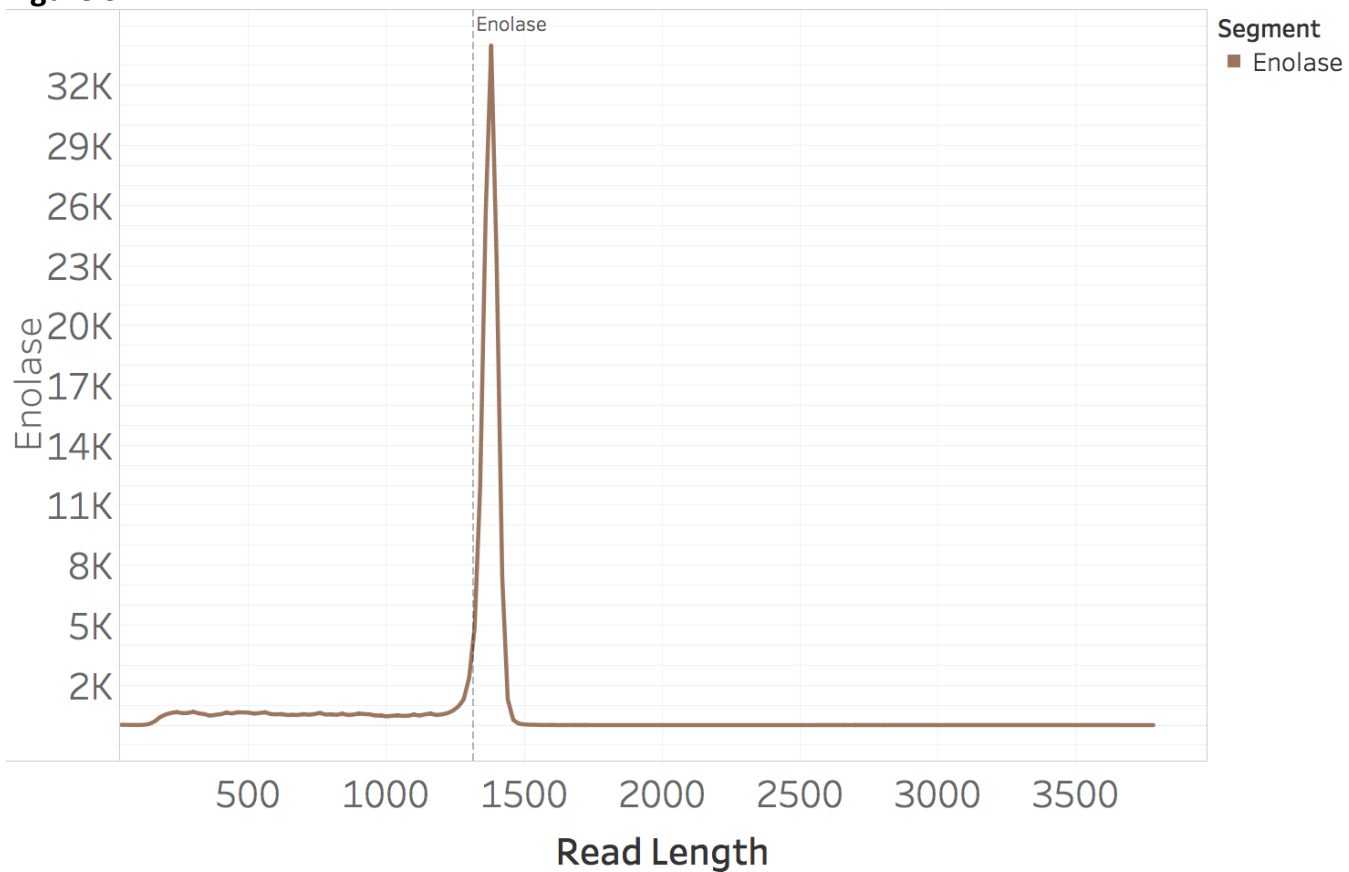
13 **Figure S1**



14

15 Average coverage of triplicate enolase direct RNA sequencing experiments. The MinION was able to sequence
16 enolase mRNA to an average coverage depth of $122,207 \pm 8,126$ reads. The directional nature of nanopore
17 sequencing results in a positive slope to the coverage for the mRNA.

18 **Figure S2**

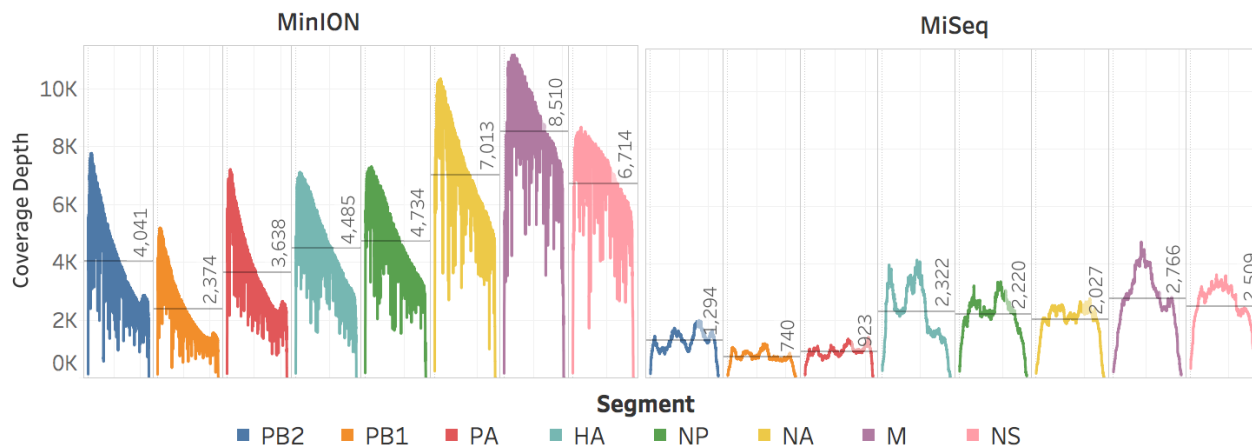


19

20 The aligned read length distribution is longer than the expected length of 1,314 nucleotides (dashed line) due to

21 insertions.

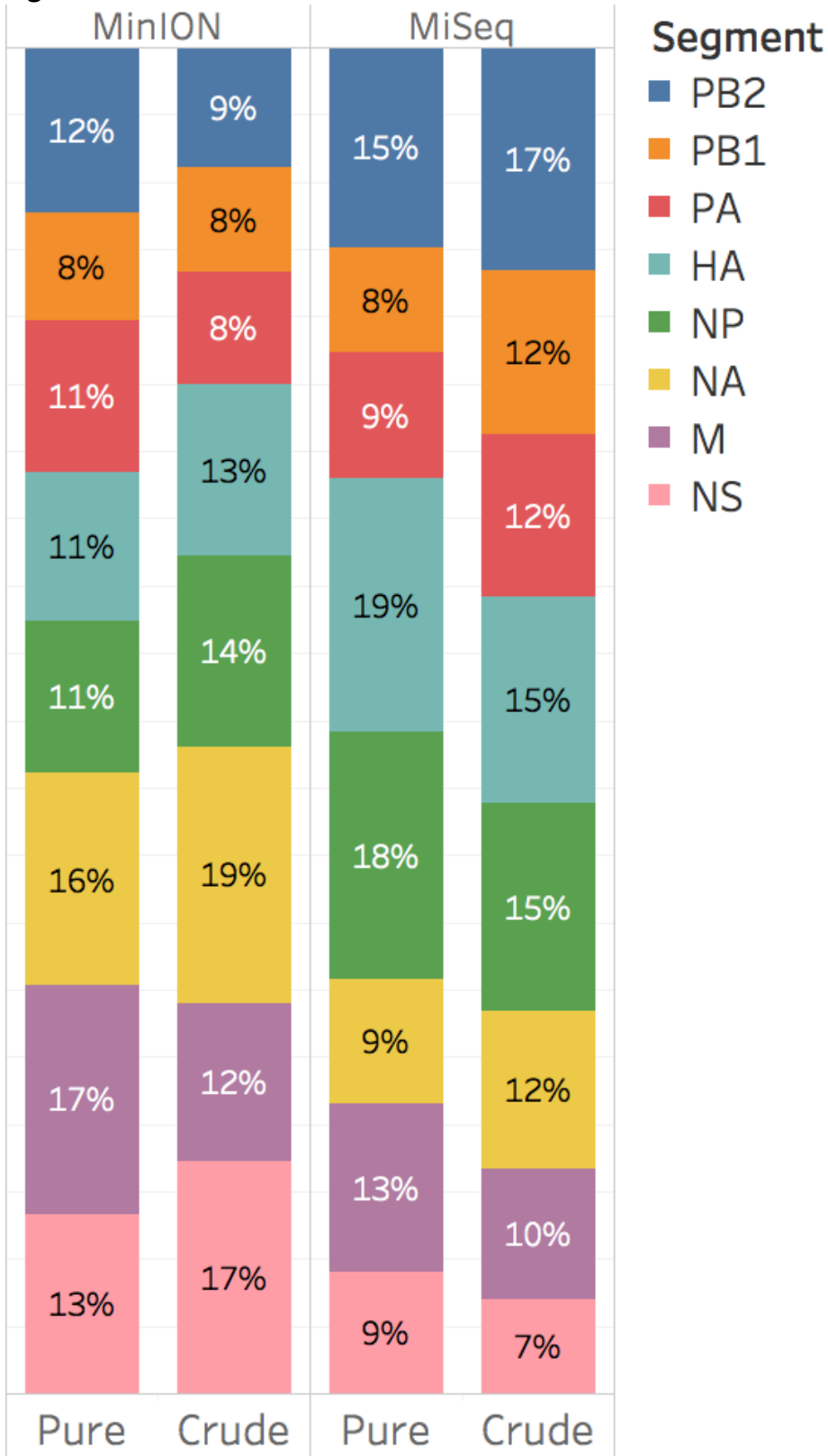
22 **Figure S3**



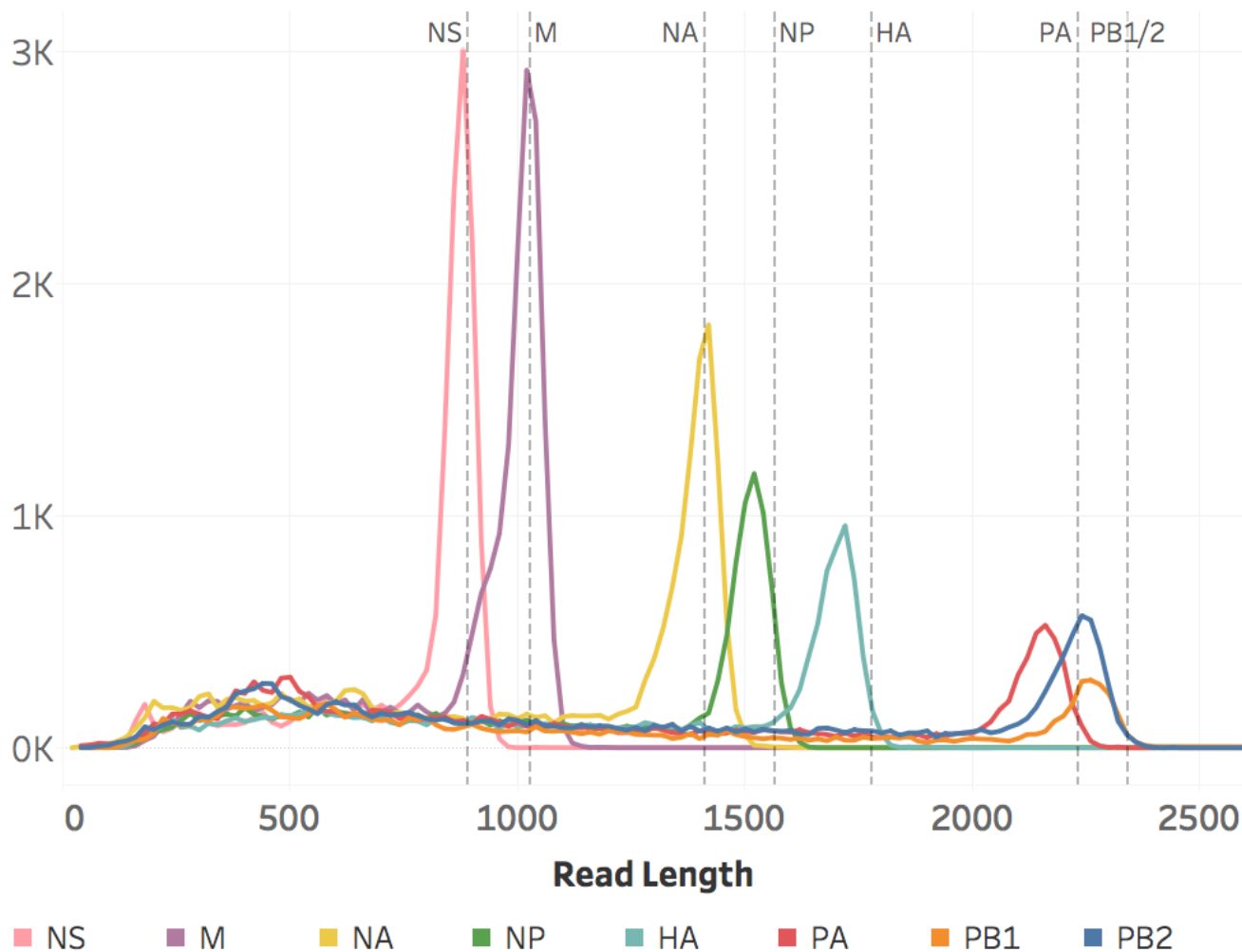
23

24 MinION direct RNA and MiSeq M-RT-PCR sequencing covered the coding regions of the PB2, PB1, PA, HA, NP, NA,
25 M, and NS genome segments of the influenza A virus genome from the influenza rA/Puerto Rico/8/1943 (H1N1)
26 pure viral samples to an average depth of 4,648 and 1,646 respectively. Negative-sense slope coverages in the
27 MinION results confirm the directionality of the sequencing and capture method.

Figure S4



31 **Figure S5**



32

33 The aligned read length distributions correspond to the expected lengths (dashed lines) of the respective

34 segments (NS 890 nt; M 1,027 nt; NA 1,413 nt; NP 1,565 nt; HA 1,778 nt; PA 2,233 nt; PB1 and PB2 2,341 nt)

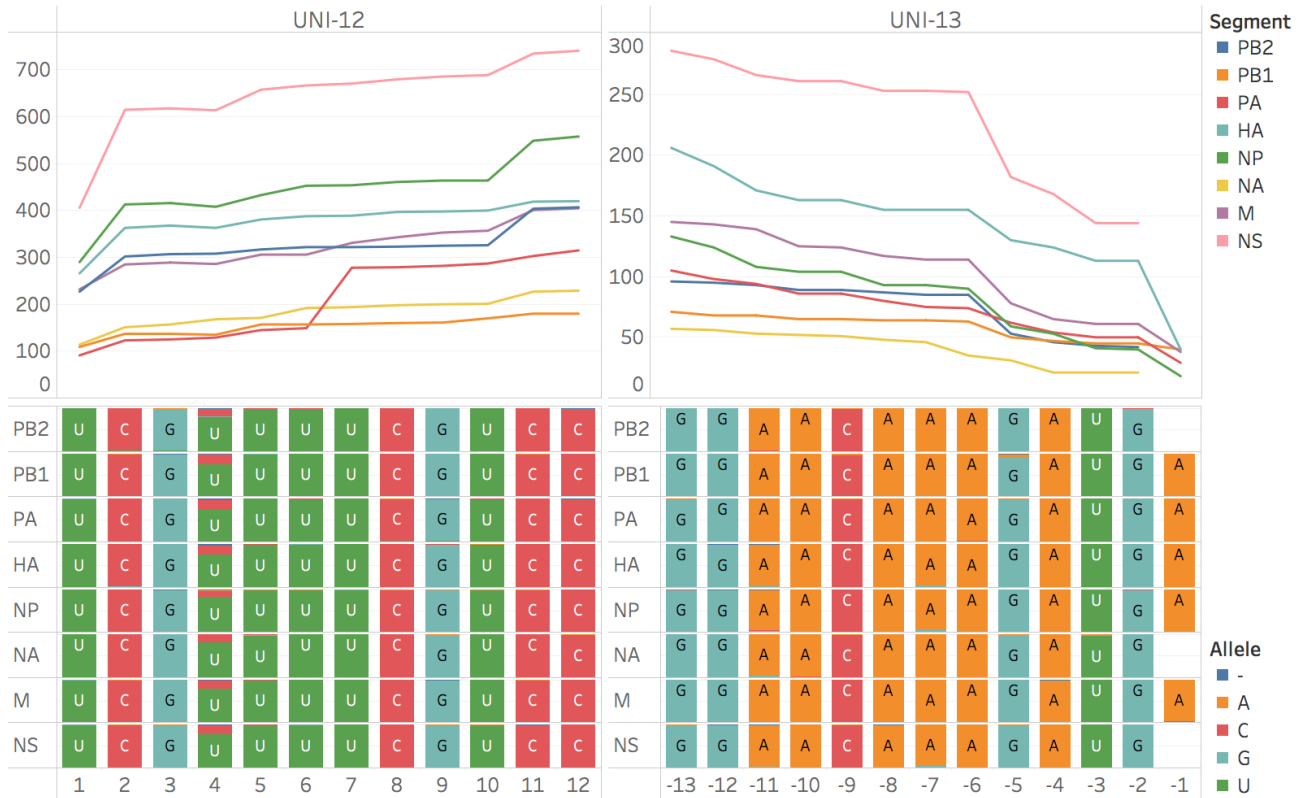
35 from the influenza rA/Puerto Rico/8/1934 (H1N1) pure viral samples. As the segment length increases, the read

36 length distribution falls further short of the expected length, presumably due to RNA degradation. Aligned read

37 lengths include insertion errors, accounting for the presence of reads larger than the expected value. Due to

38 cases of large insertion errors, 14 total reads longer than 2,500 nucleotides were observed.

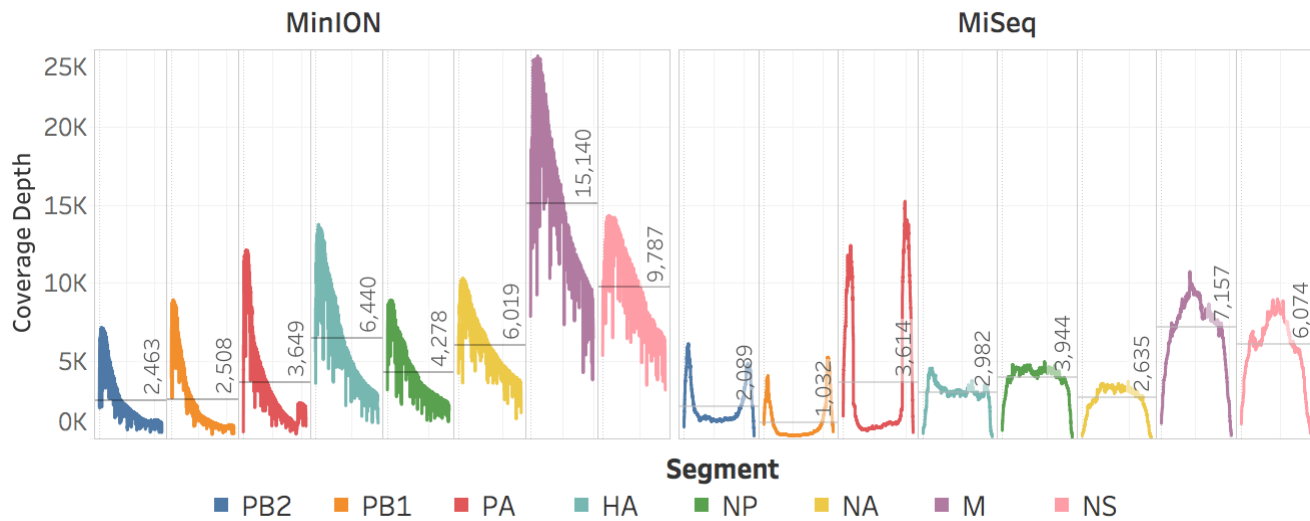
39 **Figure S6**



40

41 MiSeq coverage and consensus of the conserved termini of the influenza A viral genome segments from the
 42 influenza rA/Puerto Rico/8/1934 (H1N1) crude viral samples. These are the amplification sites, and the results
 43 are primer dictated sequences.

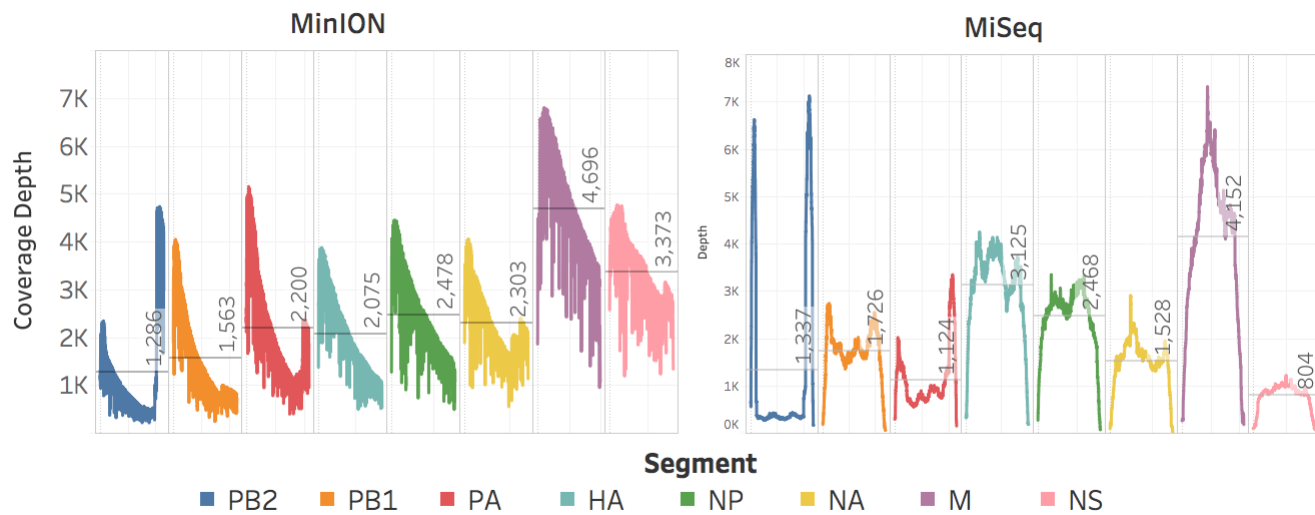
44 **Figure S7**



45

46 MinION direct RNA and MiSeq M-RT-PCR sequencing covered the coding regions of the PB2, PB1, PA, HA, NP, NA,
47 M, and NS genome segments of influenza A/Florida/20/2018 (H1N1pdm09) virus to an average depth of 5,203
48 and 3,189 respectively.

49 **Figure S8**



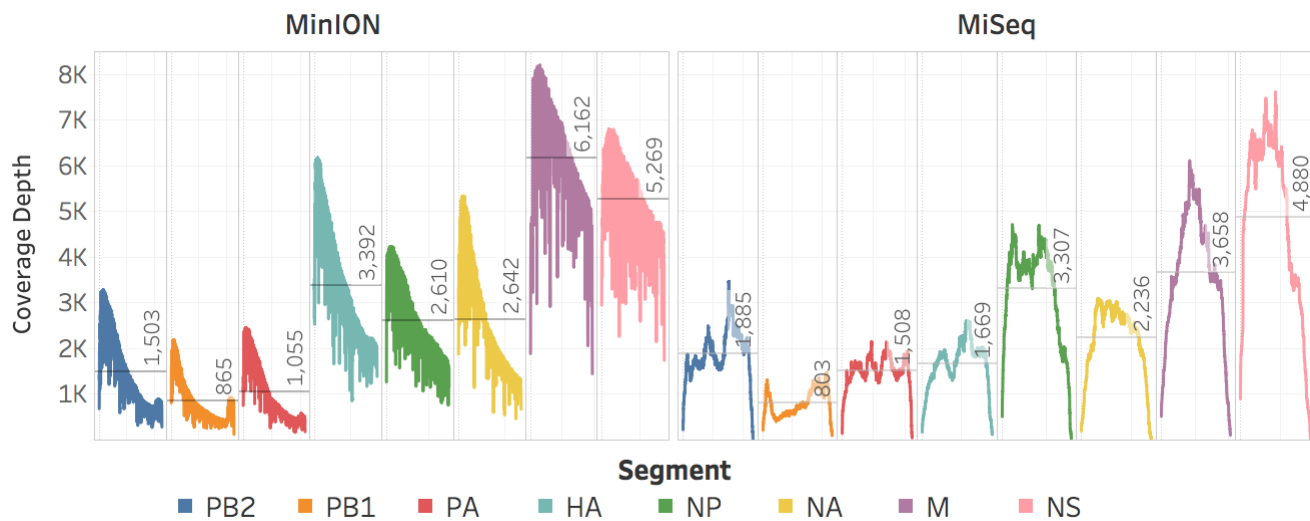
50

51 MinION direct RNA and MiSeq sequencing covered the coding regions of the PB2, PB1, PA, HA, NP, NA, M, and

52 NS genome segments of influenza A/Texas/50/2012 (H3N2) virus to an average depth of 2,225 and 1,931

53 respectively.

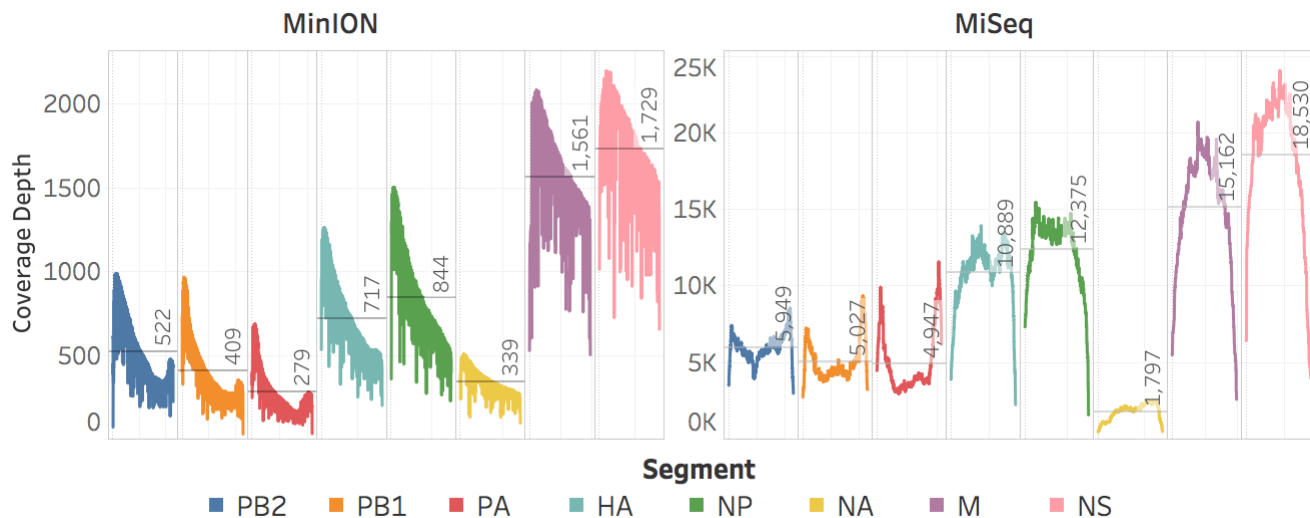
54 **Figure S9**



55

56 MinION direct RNA and MiSeq sequencing covered the coding regions of the PB2, PB1, PA, HA, NP, NA, M, and
57 NS genome segments of influenza A/chicken Ghana/20/2015 high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI H5N1) virus
58 to an average depth of 2,411 and 2,139 respectively.

59 **Figure S10**



60

61 MinION direct RNA and MiSeq sequencing covered the coding regions of the PB2, PB1, PA, HA, NP, NA, M, and

62 NS genome segments of influenza A/British Columbia/1/2015 low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI H7N9) virus

63 to an average depth of 652 and 8,101 respectively.

64 Table Legends

65 **Table S1**

66 Average and mode mapped read length is shown for MinION direct RNA sequencing experiments of RNA from
67 pure and crude stocks of influenza rA/Puerto Rico/8/1934 (H1N1) virus. The presence of short reads, particularly
68 in the crude sample, move the average read length much lower than the mode read length that is displayed here
69 and in **figures 4, S2, and S5**. The read length distribution of the polymerases are all bimodal with an abundance
70 of short reads along with full length reads. The read length distribution of M from the crude viral sample is also
71 bimodal with a clear and well-defined peak at 920 nucleotides in addition to the full-length peak at 1,020
72 nucleotides. All Illumina reads were 150 nucleotides in length.

73 **Table S2**

74 Full sequences (5' to 3') of the adapters used in this study. Each RTA-B is duplexed with RTA-A. The stock RTA
75 was supplied with the direct RNA sequencing materials. The modified RTAs were purchased from IDT with each
76 of the modified RTA-B strands already duplexed to the RTA-A strand. The RTA-A has a 5' phosphate modification
77 for ligation. The regions of reverse complementarity between the RTA strands are underlined, and the target
78 sequences are colored.

79 **Table S3**

80 Sequencing results are listed for: enolase via MinION in triplicate; purified influenza rA/Puerto Rico/8/1934
81 (H1N1) virus via MinION in duplicate and via MiSeq in singlicate; crude influenza rA/Puerto Rico/8/1934 (H1N1)
82 virus via MinION in triplicate and MiSeq in singlicate; and influenza A/Florida/20/2018 (H1N1pdm09),
83 A/Texas/50/2012 (H3N2), A/chicken Ghana/20/2015 (HPAI H5N1), and A/British Columbia/1/2015 (LPAI H7N9)
84 viruses via MinION in singlicate.

85 **Table S4**

86 Fivefold serial dilutions of influenza A/Florida/20/2018 (H1N1pdm09) vRNA were used to determine the
87 sensitivity of direct RNA sequencing. Ct values were directly measured from the RNA dilution. TCID₅₀ values were
88 calculated from the original TCID₅₀ (3.16×10^7) and the Ct values of the original sample (9.6) and the dilutions.
89 RNA was aliquoted and sequenced in triplicate (**Table S5**)

90 **Table S5**

91 Results of sequencing the LOD RNA dilutions (**Table S4**) are listed. Diluted vRNA was combined with 25 ng of
92 enolase mRNA for library preparation and sequencing. The enolase signal is maintained while the influenza
93 signal abruptly deteriorates.

94 **Table S6**

95 Input material and sequencing information for the MinION direct RNA sequencing experiments. The LOD input
96 material does not include the addition of 25 ng of enolase mRNA though that RNA is present in the final library
97 measurement. Pore occupancies for experiments in 2017 were estimated by ONT technical support from QC
98 reports. Later runs were estimated directly during the experiment. Pore occupancy of the active channels is
99 defined as $\text{channels in strand} / (\text{channels in strand} + \text{single pore channels}) * 100\%$.

100 *Pore availability for mux 1-3 is displayed. These data were be recovered by ONT technical support for Enolase 1
101 and Pure 1. Mux 4 scan data was not able to be recovered for these samples. The mux 4 pores are fewer in
102 number and are used lastly in long sequencing experiments or not at all in shorter experiments.