

Figure S1

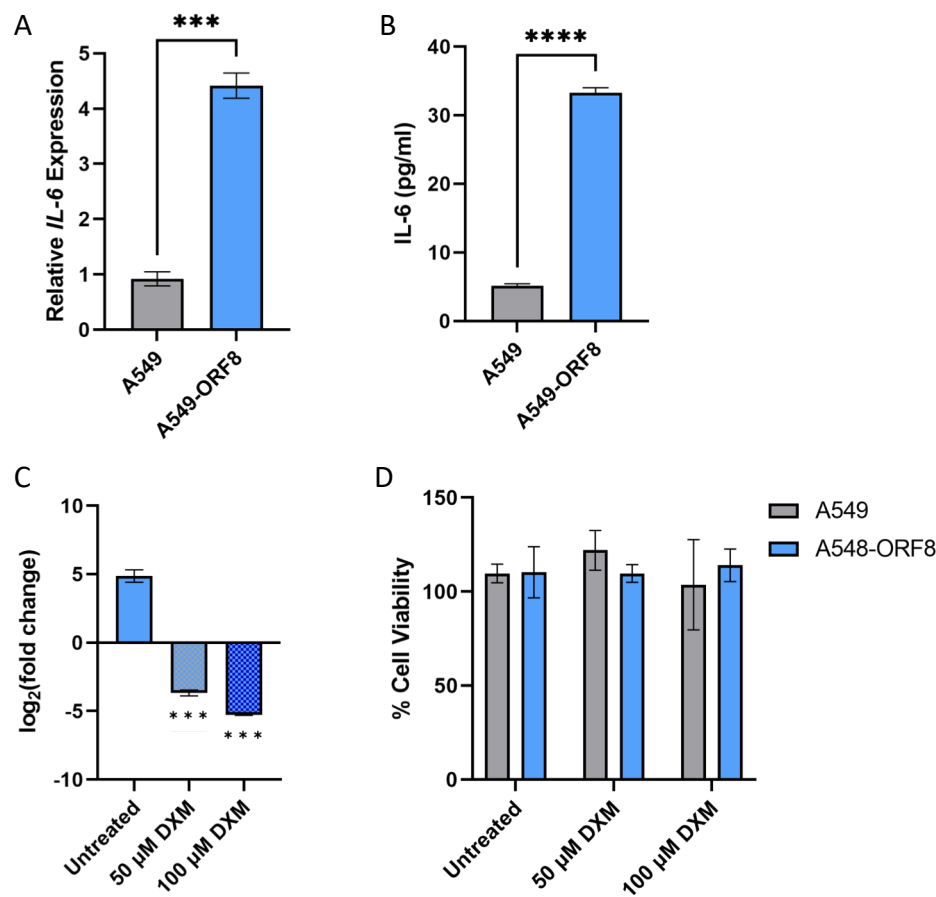


Figure S1. ORF8 expression confers a functionally active phenotype in lung epithelial cells. **A.** Relative *IL-6* mRNA expression levels in A549-ORF8 cells compared with A549 control cells, determined by RT-qPCR. **B.** Secreted IL-6 protein levels in cell culture supernatants measured by ELISA. **C.** Effect of dexamethasone treatment on *IL-6* mRNA expression in ORF8-expressing cells. **D.** Cell viability assessed by MTT assay in A549 control and ORF8-expressing cells. Values are means $\pm$ SEM (n=3) per group. Statistical analysis was performed using an unpaired two-tailed Student's t-test. Statistical significance is given as follows: ***p < 0.001 and ****p < 0.0001 to A549 control cells (A,B) or untreated A549-ORF8 cells (C).