**S1 Text. Detection limit of flow cytometry used in this study-methods.**

To estimate the lower detection limit of flow cytometry (FCM) used in this study, a dilution series was made consisting of *Escherichia coli* cells in a sterile PBS solution (1x concentration). *E. coli* cells were grown from pure culture as described previously (see *Preparation of E. coli cell stock solution*-materials and methods section-). Fresh 10-fold dilution series was made with concentrations ranging from ~108 to 101 cells/mL. The measurement was done in triplicates using FCM with the same setting and procedure described (see *Quantification of bacterial cell concentration using flow cytometry*-materials and methods section). The results were plotted on a log-log scale.