**Supplement Table S1:** Calculated absolute and relative losses and exponential loss rates with 30, 100 and 200 mg L<sup>-1</sup> sediment from the adsorption-removal experiments with MpV-08T, MpoV-45T, PgV-07T and the natural virus community (NVC). Values significantly different from the controls are in italics (p=0.05). The exponential loss rates (only calculated for significant decreases) were calculated for 3 time frames: i) -0.15 – 0h, ii) 0 – 6h, and 6 – 36h and only significant values are shown. \*only for upper frame (absolute numbers).

|  |            | Sediment<br>(mg L <sup>-1</sup> ) | MpV-08T<br>(×10 <sup>4</sup> )* | MpoV-45T<br>(×10 <sup>4</sup> )* | PgV-07T<br>(×10 <sup>4</sup> )* | NVC<br>(×10 <sup>7</sup> )* |
|--|------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  |            | 20                                | 0.52 +0.20                      | 12:02                            | 0.14 +0.08                      | 10.05                       |
| oss (viruses mL <sup>-1</sup> )        | T0         | 30<br>100                         | $0.55 \pm 0.20$                 | $1.5 \pm 0.2$                    | $0.14 \pm 0.00$                 | $1.0 \pm 0.3$               |
|  |            | 100                               | $1.0 \pm 0.3$                   | $4.0 \pm 0.2$                    | $1.0 \pm 0.2$                   | $3.7 \pm 0.3$               |
|  |            | 200                               | $1.7 \pm 0.3$                   | 5.7 ±0.3                         | $1.7 \pm 0.1$                   | 4.4 ±0.9                    |
|  | T6         | 30                                | $0.75 \pm 0.3$                  | $1.4 \pm 0.4$                    | $0.40 \pm 0.20$                 | $0.05 \pm 0.01$             |
|  |            | 100                               | 2.0 ±0.3                        | 3.6 ±0.2                         | $1.2 \pm 0.3$                   | 2.6 ±0.06                   |
|  |            | 200                               | 3.4 ±0.4                        | 5.8 ±0.1                         | 2.6 ±0.1                        | 5.4 ±0.5                    |
| us ]                                   | T36        | 30                                | $0.99 \pm 0.06$                 | $1.2 \pm 0.3$                    | $0.34 \pm 0.09$                 | $1.0 \pm 0.8$               |
| /in                                    |            | 100                               | $3.2 \pm 0.6$                   | $4.0 \pm 0.3$                    | $1.3 \pm 0.2$                   | 3.5 ±0.3                    |
|  |            | 200                               | 4.9 ±0.1                        | $6.0 \pm 0.1$                    | 2.6 ±0.2                        | 5.9 ±0.1                    |
|  |            |                                   |                                 |                                  |                                 |                             |
| -                                      |            | 30                                | 9.7 ±4                          | $19 \pm 3$                       | 3 ±2                            | 9 ±4                        |
| us loss (% of total                    | T0         | 100                               | 19 ±6                           | 55 ±2                            | 23 ±4                           | 33 ±2                       |
|  |            | 200                               | 32 ±6                           | 78 ±4                            | 38 ±3                           | 38 ±8                       |
|  | T6         | 30                                | 14 ±6                           | 19 ±5                            | 9 ±4                            | $0.44 \pm 0.80$             |
|  |            | 100                               | 36 ±6                           | 50 ±3                            | 25 ±6                           | 23 ±1                       |
|  |            | 200                               | 60 ±6                           | 80 ±1                            | 57 ±2                           | 48 ±5                       |
|  |            | 30                                | $17 \pm 1$                      | 18 ±4                            | 7 ±2                            | 8 ±6                        |
| Vir                                    | T36        | 100                               | 54 ±9                           | 59 ±5                            | 29 ±5                           | 29 ±2                       |
| r                                      |            | 200                               | 83 ±2                           | 88 ±2                            | 57 ±4                           | 48 ±0.1                     |
|  |            |                                   |                                 |                                  |                                 |                             |
| ponential loss rate (d <sup>.1</sup> ) |            | 30                                | -                               | 33 ±6                            | -                               | -                           |
|  | -0.15 – 0h | 100                               | -                               | 126 ±54                          | 43 ±16                          | 63 ±23                      |
|  |            | 200                               | 62 ±16                          | 247±55                           | 76 ±19                          | 78 ±24                      |
|  | 0 – 6h     | 30                                | -                               | -                                | -                               | -                           |
|  |            | 100                               | $0.9 \pm 0.4$                   | -                                | -                               | -                           |
|  |            | 200                               | $2.2 \pm 0.3$                   | -                                | 1.4 ±0.2                        | -                           |
|  | 6 – 36h    | 30                                | -                               | -                                | -                               | -                           |
|  |            | 100                               | 0.3 ±0.1                        | -                                | -                               | -                           |
| Ex                                     |            | 200                               | $0.7 \pm 0.0$                   | $1.4 \pm 0.1$                    | -                               | -                           |

**Supplement Table S2:** Absolute and relative total virus losses of the undiluted lysates of MpV-08T, MpoV-45T and PgV-07T in relation to their starting abundances and sediment concentration to test whether higher viral abundances reduce the removal of sediment due to occupation of binding sites.

| Vinne turne | Starting                     | Sediment | Absolute loss                         |
|-------------|------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| viius type  | abundance (ml-1)             | (mg L-1) | (× 10 <sup>7</sup> ml <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|             |                              | 30       | $0.44 \pm 0.07$                       |
| MpV-08T     | $1.3 \pm 0.15 \times 10^{7}$ | 100      | 1.1 ±0.03                             |
|             |                              | 200      | $1.2 \pm 0.01$                        |
|             |                              | 30       | 0.49 ±0.10                            |
| MpoV-45T    | $1.4 \pm 0.18 \times 10^8$   | 100      | 1.1 ±0.3                              |
|             |                              | 200      | 2.2 ±0.4                              |
|             |                              | 30       | 0.93 ±0.70                            |
| PgV-07T     | $2.4 \pm 0.71 \times 10^8$   | 100      | 2.3 ±1.1                              |
|             |                              | 200      | 2.0 ±0.8                              |



**Supplement Figure S1:** MpoV-45T abundance over time (n=3) exposed to 50 mg L<sup>-1</sup> montmorillonite clay. The loss of viruses follows an exponential decay process:  $N(t) = 6276998 e^{-0.2t}$  (r<sup>2</sup>=0.90).



**Supplement Figure S2.** Cytograms of the 3 algal viruses (A-F) and the natural virus community (NVC; G-H) for 0 mg L<sup>-1</sup> (A,C,E,G) and 200 mg L<sup>-1</sup> (B,D,F,H) sediment addition treatment. The specific viruses were discriminated based on their green nucleic acid-specific green fluorescence and the side scatter signal (cluster is depicted by blue frame).



**Supplement Figure S3.** Absolute viral abundances (mean  $\pm$  s.d.) of MpV-08T (A), MpoV-45T (B), PgV-07T (C) and NVC (D) over time during the adsorption-removal experiments and with 0 (control), 30, 100 and 200 mg L<sup>-1</sup> glacierderived sediment. The abundances right before sediment addition (T0 h) are depicted on the left side of the vertical dotted line. Further sampling was done at T0.15 h, T6 h and T36 h. Asterisks (\*) above the bars show which treatments are significantly different (p<0.05) from the control. A part of the decrease in viral abundances between T0 and T0.15 (visible in the controls) is due to the addition of sediment suspension or (for the controls) medium.



**Supplement Figure S4:** Total virus losses under the different starting abundances of diluted and undiluted MpV-08T, MpoV-45T and NVC and under sediment concentrations of 30, 100 and 200 mg L<sup>-1</sup> sediment. Note the log scale for both the x- and y-axis.



**Supplement Figure S5:** The interaction of MpoV-44T with the clay kaolinite: A) a one-step infection cycle of MpoV-44T (triangles) on *Micromonas commoda* LAC38 (circles) with (white symbols) and without (black symbols) 50 mg L<sup>-1</sup> kaolinite (temperature 3°C); B) absolute decreases in viral abundances in a filtered lysate with 50 mg L<sup>-1</sup> kaolinite (grey bars) versus a control without sediment (black bars); C) Virus losses (%) relative to the control without sediment.



**Supplement Figure S6:** Viruses over time during the two-step infection experiment. The log y-axis clearly shows the two-step nature of the virus-host interaction, i.e. viruses are produced in different two cycles.