



Figure S2. Deletion of *ldtD*, *ldtE* and *ldtD-ldtE* in the *araBplptC* conditional strain compromises cell viability under non-permissive conditions. Cells of *araBplptC* Δ *ldtD* (**A**), *araBplptC* Δ *ldtE* (**C**) *araBplptC* Δ *ldtD* Δ *ldtE* (**E**) were grown in the presence of 0.2% arabinose to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.2, harvested, washed three times and resuspended in an arabinose-supplemented (+ Ara) or arabinose-free (no Ara) medium. Cell growth was monitored by OD₆₀₀ measurements (upper panels) and viability was assessed by determining CFU (lower panels). Growth curves shown are representative of at least three independent experiments. At t = 120 min, 210 min and 270 min (arrows), *araBplptC* Δ *ldtD* (**B**), *araBplptC* Δ *ldtE* (**D**) and *araBplptC* Δ *ldtD* Δ *ldtE* (**F**) cells were collected for imaging. Phase contrast images are on the top and fluorescence images are on the bottom. Scale bars, 3 μ m.