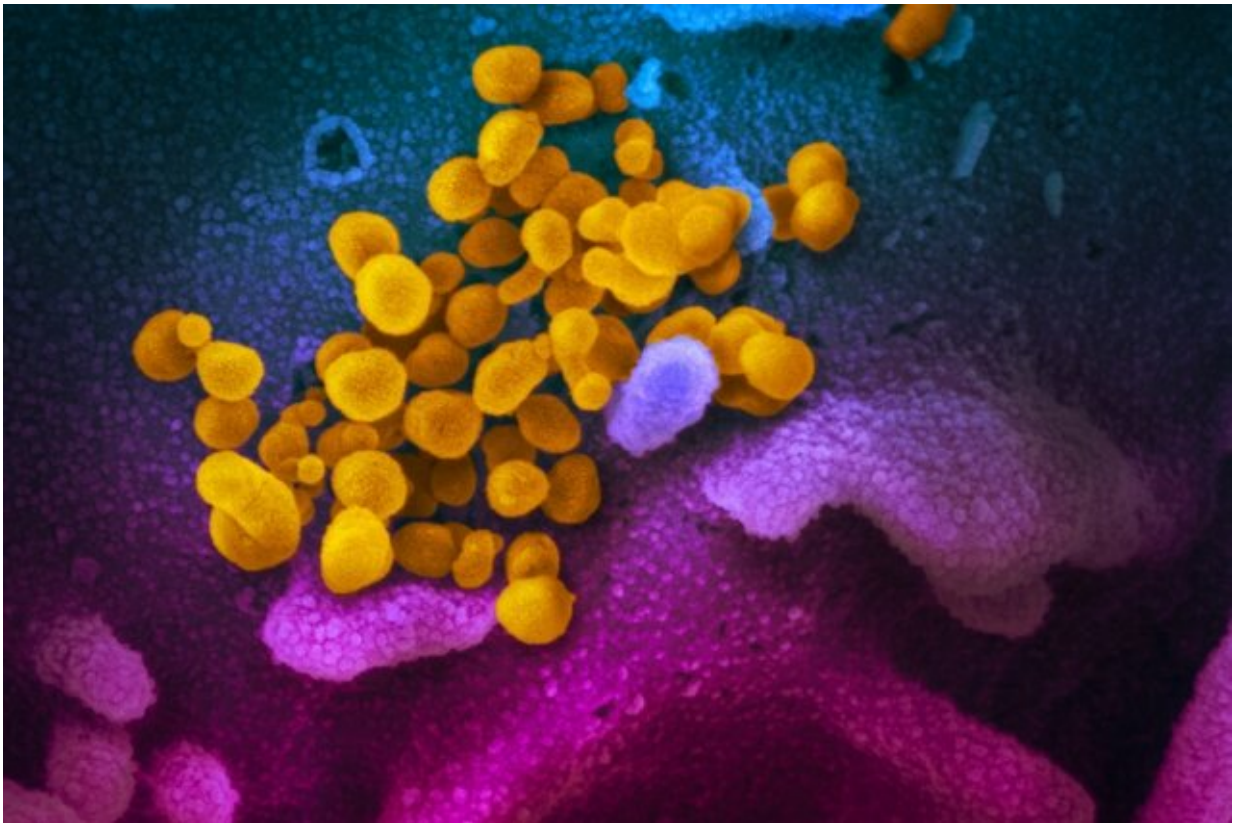


WHO mission says lab leak virus theory 'extremely unlikely'

February 9 2021



This scanning electron microscope image shows SARS-CoV-2 (yellow)—also known as 2019-nCoV, the virus that causes COVID-19—isolated from a patient, emerging from the surface of cells (blue/pink) cultured in the lab. Credit: NIAID-RML

Experts from the WHO on Tuesday all but eliminated a controversial

theory that COVID-19 came from a laboratory in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

"The [laboratory](#) incident hypothesis is extremely unlikely to explain the introduction of the virus into the [human population](#)," said Peter Ben Embarek, the head of the WHO mission.

"Therefore is not in the hypotheses that we will suggest for future studies."

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