

FBI director says Covid 'most likely' caused by Wuhan lab accident

March 1 2023

Searching for the origins of Covid-19

What we know so far and what we still don't know about the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that unleashed a global pandemic in 2020

What was the real role of China's **Huanan market** in Wuhan? **Origin or amplifier?**

Inconclusive

A March 2021 WHO report made "no firm conclusion" but a pair of 2022 studies added weight to the origin theory

What was the **intermediate species** that passed the virus onto humans?

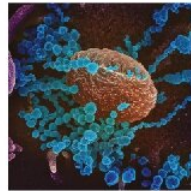
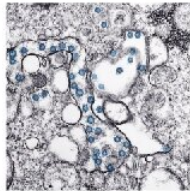
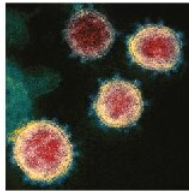
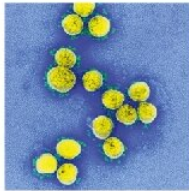
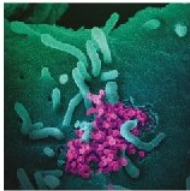
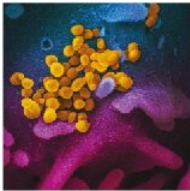
Unknown

Bats are considered the most likely reservoir species; while an unknown intermediary is strongly suspected

Has the theory of the **accidental lab leak** been conclusively disproven?

No

The issue remains unresolved and politically inflammatory as various studies offer conflicting conclusions



Sources: *nature.com* - WHO abandons plans for crucial second phase of COVID-origins investigations/
WHO-China Joint Report/Science/USODNI/US media reports

Lab images: NIH/CDC/NIAID



Graphic on what we know so far, and what we don't know, about the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that unleashed the Covid-19 pandemic on the world in 2020.

FBI Director Christopher Wray said Tuesday his agency believes the Covid-19 pandemic was "most likely" caused by an incident in a laboratory in Wuhan, China.

"The FBI has for quite some time now assessed that the origins of the

pandemic are most likely a potential lab incident in Wuhan," Wray said in an interview with Fox News.

The comments come after a report earlier this week said the US Department of Energy had determined that a leak from a Chinese lab was the most likely cause of the Covid-19 outbreak.

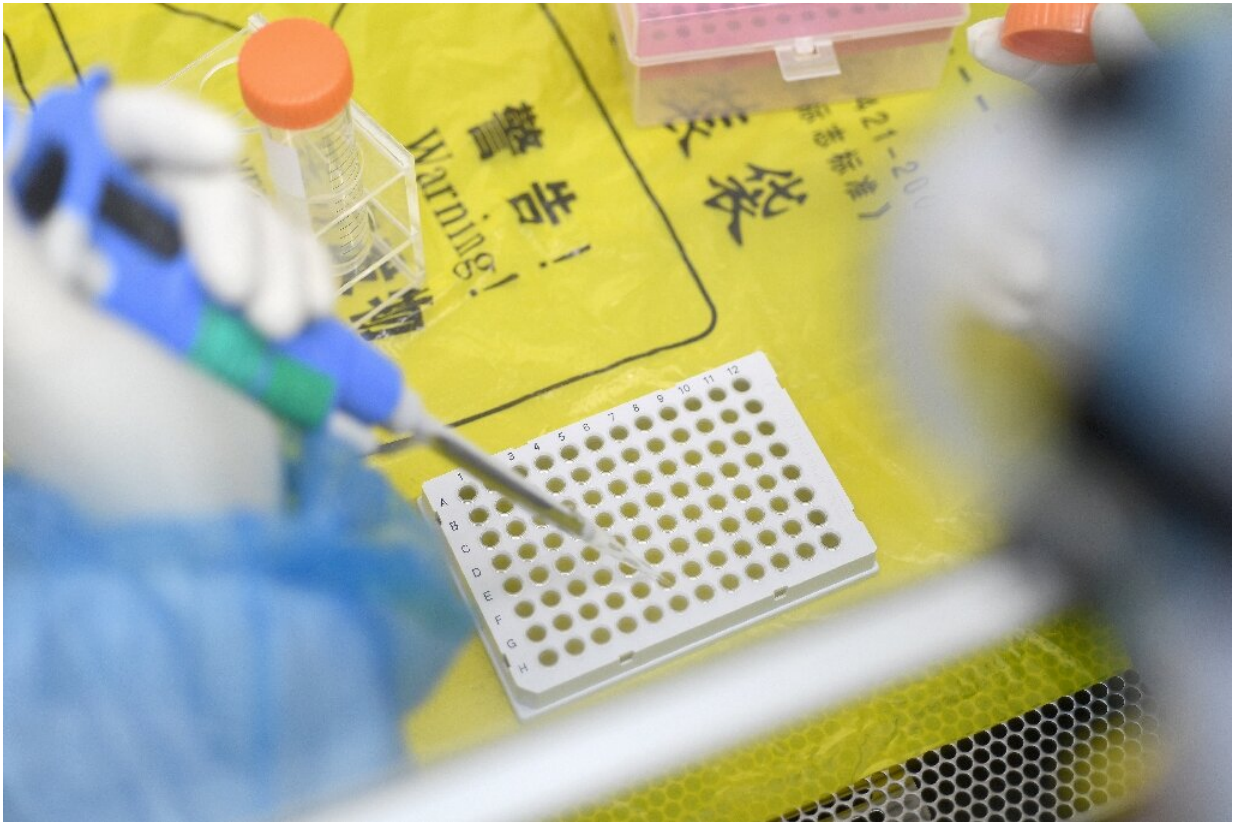
However, other agencies within the American intelligence community believe the virus emerged naturally in the world.

In the [interview](#), Wray also accused the Chinese government of trying to stall US efforts to investigate the causes of the pandemic.

"The Chinese government... has been doing its best to try to thwart and obfuscate the work here, the work that we're doing, the work that our US government and close foreign partners are doing," Wray said. "And that's unfortunate for everybody."

Chinese officials have angrily denied the claim, calling it a smear campaign against Beijing.

The scientific community sees it as crucial to determine the origins of the [pandemic](#) in order to better fight or even prevent the next one.



Director Christopher Wray the FBI believes the Covid-19 pandemic was "most likely" caused by an incident in a laboratory in Wuhan, China.

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