

and deaths. The COVID-19 outbreak has also been associated with severe economic impacts globally due to the sudden interruption of global trade and supply chains that forced multinational companies to make decisions that led to significant economic losses (66). The recent increase in the number of confirmed critically ill patients with COVID-19 has already surpassed the intensive care supplies, limiting intensive care services to only a small portion of critically ill patients (67). This might also have contributed to the increased case fatality rate observed in the COVID-19 outbreak.

#### **Viewpoint on SARS-CoV-2 Transmission, Spread, and Emergence**

The novel coronavirus was identified within 1 month (28 days) of the outbreak. This is impressively fast compared to the time taken to identify SARS-CoV reported in Foshan, Guangdong Province, China (125 days) (68). Immediately after the confirmation of viral etiology, the Chinese virologists rapidly released the genomic sequence of SARS-CoV-2, which played a crucial role in controlling the spread of this newly emerged novel coronavirus to other parts of the world (69). The possible origin of SARS-CoV-2 and the first mode of