

**From:** ZhuChen (b) (6) >  
**Subject:** Re:SARS-CoV-2  
**Date:** May 5, 2020 at 8:16:23 AM EDT  
**To:** Lipkin, Ian W. (b) (6) >

Dear Ian,  
Thank you for your email detailing the

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4). I shall keep you informed of any

progress in the coming weeks.  
Best,  
Zhu

----- Original -----

**From:** "Lipkin, Ian W. (b) (6)";  
**Date:** Tue, May 5, 2020 06:06 AM  
**To:** "ZhuChen" (b) (6) >;  
**Subject:** SARS-CoV-2

Dear Zhu,  
The COVID-19 pandemic poses an unprecedented threat not only to global public health but also to economic and political stability. Uncertainty about the origin of COVID-19 pandemic is causing friction worldwide, particularly between China and the United States. There is agreement that the causative agent, SARS-CoV-2 originated in a bat. There is also a high level of confidence that the virus was not deliberately modified in any laboratory. What we do not know is the answers to two questions: (1) whether a precursor virus circulated in the human population before it evolved to become a pandemic virus and (2) whether a precursor virus adapted to humans by first passing through another animal. (b) (4)