

## COVID-19 timeline: Here's how the pandemic likely unfolded in Wuhan

[Michael Worobey](#), an evolutionary biologist at the University of Arizona, has pieced together clues from earliest days of the outbreak. [Writing in the journal Science](#), he strengthens the case that [the Huanan Market was the most likely source](#) of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Here's a closer look at some of the key events.

Nov. 18, 2019 — The novel coronavirus that is later named SARS-CoV-2 infects a human for the first time. (This date [is an estimate](#).) Whoever this patient is, he or she was probably not admitted to a hospital — and may not have experienced any symptoms of what became known as COVID-19.

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Dec. 13, 2019 — A 65-year-old deliveryman at the Huanan Market reports symptoms of COVID-19, though the records are unclear and this may have occurred two days later.

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Dec. 18, 2019 — Dr. Fen Ai, director of the emergency department at the Central Hospital of Wuhan, treats the 65-year-old deliveryman for unexplained pneumonia. A CT scan shows an infection in both lungs, which did not clear up despite treatment with antibiotics and anti-influenza drugs.

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Dec. 26, 2019 — The analysis of the deliveryman's lung sample reveals he is infected with [a new coronavirus related to the one that causes Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome](#), or SARS.

**[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.](#)**