

FW: Important Notice from GISAID

GISAID Compliance <compliance@gisaid.org>

Tue 3/21/2023 2:28 PM

To: David Larousserie <larousserie@lemonde.fr>; MORIN Hervé <merin@lemonde.fr>; Maarten Keulemans

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mancini

[REDACTED]

External Email

From: GISAID Compliance <compliance@gisaid.org>**Date:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 11:26 AM**To:** Florence Débarre [REDACTED], "Edward C. Holmes"

[REDACTED], Kristian Andersen [REDACTED],

Michael Worobey [REDACTED], Karthik Gangavarapu

[REDACTED], Joel Wertheim [REDACTED], Niema Moshiri

[REDACTED], Reema Singh [REDACTED], Andrew Rambaut

[REDACTED], Angela Rasmussen [REDACTED], David

Robertson [REDACTED]

Cc: Crits-Christoph Alexander Justin [REDACTED], Jonathan Pekar

[REDACTED], Joshua Levy [REDACTED], Stephen Goldstein

[REDACTED], Marc Suchard [REDACTED], Philippe Lemey

[REDACTED], "Robert F. Garry" [REDACTED], Maria Van

Kerkhove [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Important Notice from GISAID

Dear colleagues,

Please be advised that your GISAID access credentials have been temporarily suspended pending investigation following complaints about your use of certain data in contravention of GISAID's Database Access Agreement.

As you know, following a complaint GISAID received from data generators affiliated with the China CDC, on 13 March 2023 we sent a request for comment (see below email thread) to each user we at that time knew to be in possession of the China CDC's data. Unfortunately, none of the replies that GISAID received came from any of the above-identified authors of "Genetic evidence of susceptible wildlife in SARS-CoV-2 positive samples at the Huanan Wholesale Seafood Market, Wuhan: Analysis and interpretation of data released by the Chinese Center for Disease Control."

We wish we could have avoided this unfortunate measure, but in order to uphold GISAID's sharing mechanism and maintain confidence that its platform is a trusted place for data contributors to see their rights respected, we were left with no other choice but to temporarily suspend your accounts when you did not respond to our 13 March 2023 message.

GISAID desires to resolve this matter expeditiously, and therefore reiterate our request that you provide any evidence of your efforts to collaborate with the representatives of the Originating Laboratory.

Respectfully,

The GISAID Initiative

From: "Secretariat (GISAID)" <secretariat@gisaid.org>
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 at 6:55 PM
To: Florence Débarre [REDACTED]
Cc: GISAID Compliance <compliance@gisaid.org>
Subject: Important Notice from GISAID

Dear Florence,

We understand you have obtained data from GISAID that was submitted by the China CDC, whose manuscript "Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in the environment and animal samples of the Huanan Seafood Market" (working title) is currently under review for publication by a peer-reviewed journal.

Furthermore, we understand the data generators have produced additional data for imminent release to allow a more comprehensive and improved analysis.

GISAID fully supports your research efforts, and those of all other Authorized Users, to make contributions to public health surveillance which includes, for example, your ability to present and discuss your analyses of unpublished data to a group of peers.

However, if you were to publish your analyses of un-published data before the data generator's own publication is released, *especially* if you know the data generator submitted their own manuscript for publication, such an act would amount to scooping. Not only could this "distort[] scientific progress[,] it could negatively impact the quality of scientific work. See Pearson, H. [It's a scoop!](#). *Nature* **426**, 222–223 (2003). Doing so would also run afoul to GISAID's Database Access Agreement, which calls on you to make best efforts to collaborate with the data generator and involve them in such analyses and further research using such data.

When GISAID sought confirmation from the data generator whether best efforts to collaborate have been made in this case, GISAID was advised that a group of researchers contacted the data generator to communicate *only* their intent to publish the data generator's data. As such, best efforts requirement has not been met. If you have evidence to the contrary or want to comment on the above, please contact us.

We appreciate your cooperation and prompt attention to this important matter.

Regards,

The GISAID Initiative
Real-Time Communication in Disease Prevention
a Nonprofit Public-Private-Partnership
<https://gisaid.org/>

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