

<b>From:</b>	"Stilwell, David R"
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: HOT: Virology Labs Breakdown
<b>Date:</b>	Thu, 30 Apr 2020 15:26:00 +0000

Just talked to S about issues related to this. He's looking forward to the outcomes of the project. There will be follow-on tasks that will require significant IA coordination.

Worth a secure discussion later today; maybe 1730? I have to leave by 1800 (survival—Ft Myer commissary run).

Best  
Dave

---

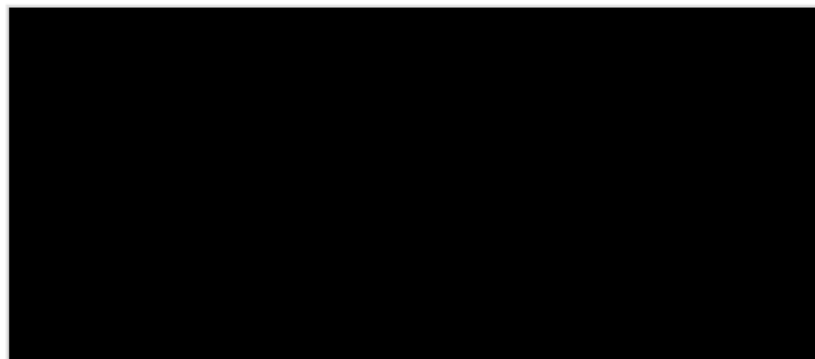
**From:** (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 10:01 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Stilwell, David R (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: HOT: Virology Labs Breakdown

Hi (b)(6)

I wanted to flag this journal article I ran across the other day, (b)(5)  
(b)(5)

This paper was submitted by Yuan Zhiming, the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Communist Party chief and Vice Director of the Wuhan Institute of Virology and was published in the Journal of Biosafety and Biosecurity journal on September 11, 2019

[Current status and future challenges of high-level biosafety laboratories in China](#)



Current status and future challenges of high-level biosafety

**laboratorie...**

High-level biosafety laboratories are safe and secure platforms which integrate reliable containment, well-train...

**Relevant Points:****3.2. Inadequate biosafety management systems**

Since the promulgation and implementation of "Regulations on Biosafety Management of Pathogenic Microorganism Laboratories," issued by State Council in 2004, a series of other regulations have been formulated by different ministries and local governments. These have considered the examination and approval of laboratory construction and accreditation, authorization of research activities, as well as pathogen, waste, and laboratory animal management regulations. Although these regulations wholesomely cover all aspects of construction, management, and eventual operation of BSLs, their enforcement still needs to be strengthened. Furthermore, due to different investment sources, affiliations, and management systems, the implementation of these laboratories faces difficulties converging objectives and cooperation workflows. **This scenario puts laboratory biosafety at risk since the implementation efficiency and timely operations are relatively compromised.**

**3.3. Insufficient resources for efficient laboratory operation**

Depending on the size and location, building a modern BSL costs millions of US dollars, and in China the funds for construction are typically raised by the state, local governments, upstream authorities, and institutions. Additionally, 5–10% of construction costs are needed for annual operation. However, **the maintenance cost is generally neglected; several high-level BSLs have insufficient operational funds for routine yet vital processes. Due to the limited resources, some BSL-3 laboratories run on extremely minimal operational costs or in some cases none at all.**

**3.4. Deficiency of professional capacity**

In the process of BSL construction, operation, and management, highly skilled professional teams from diverse disciplines such as architectural science, materials science, aerodynamics, automatic controlling, environmental science, microbiology, botany, biosafety, and systems engineering are required. In addition, biosafety measures and practices are vital in daily laboratory operations hence a highly qualified, motivated, and skilled biosafety supervisor is needed not only for overseeing solid containment but also in laboratory risk management. **Currently, most laboratories lack specialized biosafety managers and engineers. In such facilities, some of the skilled staff is composed by part-time researchers. This makes it difficult to identify and mitigate potential safety hazards in facility and equipment operation early enough. Nonetheless, biosafety awareness, professional knowledge, and operational skill training still need to be improved among laboratory personnel.**

Best,

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:50 PM

**To:** (b)(6) (b)(6) Stilwell, David R (b)(6) (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: HOT: Virology Labs Breakdown

(b)(5)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:47:14 PM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Stilwell, David R (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: HOT: Virology Labs Breakdown

Thanks, (b)(6) This is very helpful.

The former deputy director of the PRC CDC is the wife of a prominent Chinese dissident. Both are living in NYC. She knows all about this 2004 incident.

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:37 PM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Stilwell, David R (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: HOT: Virology Labs Breakdown

Actually there is a CDC press release from 2004:

<https://www.cdc.gov/sars/media/2004-05-19.html>

#### NOTICE

This website is archived for historical purposes and is no longer being maintained or updated.

During April 22-29, the Chinese Ministry of Health (MOH) reported a total of nine cases of SARS in China ; seven of the patients were from Beijing , and two were from Anhui Province , located in east-central China . One of the patients died.

Two of the nine patients were graduate students who worked at the China 's National Institute of Virology Laboratory (NIVL) in Beijing , which is known to conduct research on SARS coronavirus (SARS-CoV). The laboratory was closed on April 23, potentially exposed personnel are being monitored for signs of illness, and possible sources of infection for the two laboratory workers are being investigated.

Of the seven other SARS cases, two were directly linked to close personal contact with one of the graduate students who worked at NIVL; these two cases were in the graduate student's mother (who died) and in a nurse who provided care to the graduate student. The remaining five cases were linked to close contact with the nurse.

No further cases of SARS in China or anywhere else in the world have been reported since April 29. Chinese authorities have carried out active surveillance activities to identify other possible cases of SARS, including enhanced surveillance for any flu-like illness and pneumonia of unknown etiology. They also initiated measures to prevent the spread of SARS among travelers, including health screening of travelers at ports of exit/entry.

On May 18, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported on its websiteExternal that the outbreak in China appears to have been contained, but that biosafety concerns remain and further investigation is under way. WHO and Chinese health officials are still in the process of determining precisely what caused the outbreak.

CDC is in close communication with WHO and is working with its public health partners to reinforce the need for strict adherence to applicable biosafety precautions to reduce the risk of laboratory-related exposures to SARS-

Get Outlook for iOS

---

**From:** (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:30:12 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (b)(6) Stilwell, David R (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: HOT: Virology Labs Breakdown

Happy to keep sending what I know. One thing I missed from this morning is that there was a 2004 leak of SARS from a BSL3 lab in China. Trying to get more details from NIAID.

Get Outlook for iOS

---

**From:** (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:17:58 PM  
**To:** Stilwell, David R (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: HOT: Virology Labs Breakdown

Thanks, Stilly, for sharing (b)(6)'s brilliant contributions to this project.

(b)(6) truly appreciate your input. Please do not hesitate to keep sending it. (b)(5)  
(b)(5) Good stuff.  
(b)(6)

---

**From:** Stilwell, David R (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:10 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: HOT: Virology Labs Breakdown

(b)(6)

(b)(6) wrote/resurrected the 2018 cables. (b)(6) foresaw this disaster long ago. . . To me this is the key point. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Cheers

Stilly

---

**From:** (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:59 AM  
**To:** Stilwell, David R (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6); Fritz, Jonathan D (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: HOT: Virology Labs Breakdown

Attached is the Nature article I referenced below.

Relevant Summary: The laboratory in Wuhan is on the cusp of being cleared to work with the world's most dangerous pathogens. The move is part of a plan to build between five and seven biosafety level-4 (BSL-4) labs across the Chinese mainland by 2025, and has generated much excitement, as well as some concerns. ***Some scientists outside China worry about pathogens escaping***, and the addition of a biological dimension to geopolitical tensions between China and other nations. But Chinese microbiologists are celebrating their entrance to the elite cadre empowered to wrestle with the world's greatest biological threats.

---

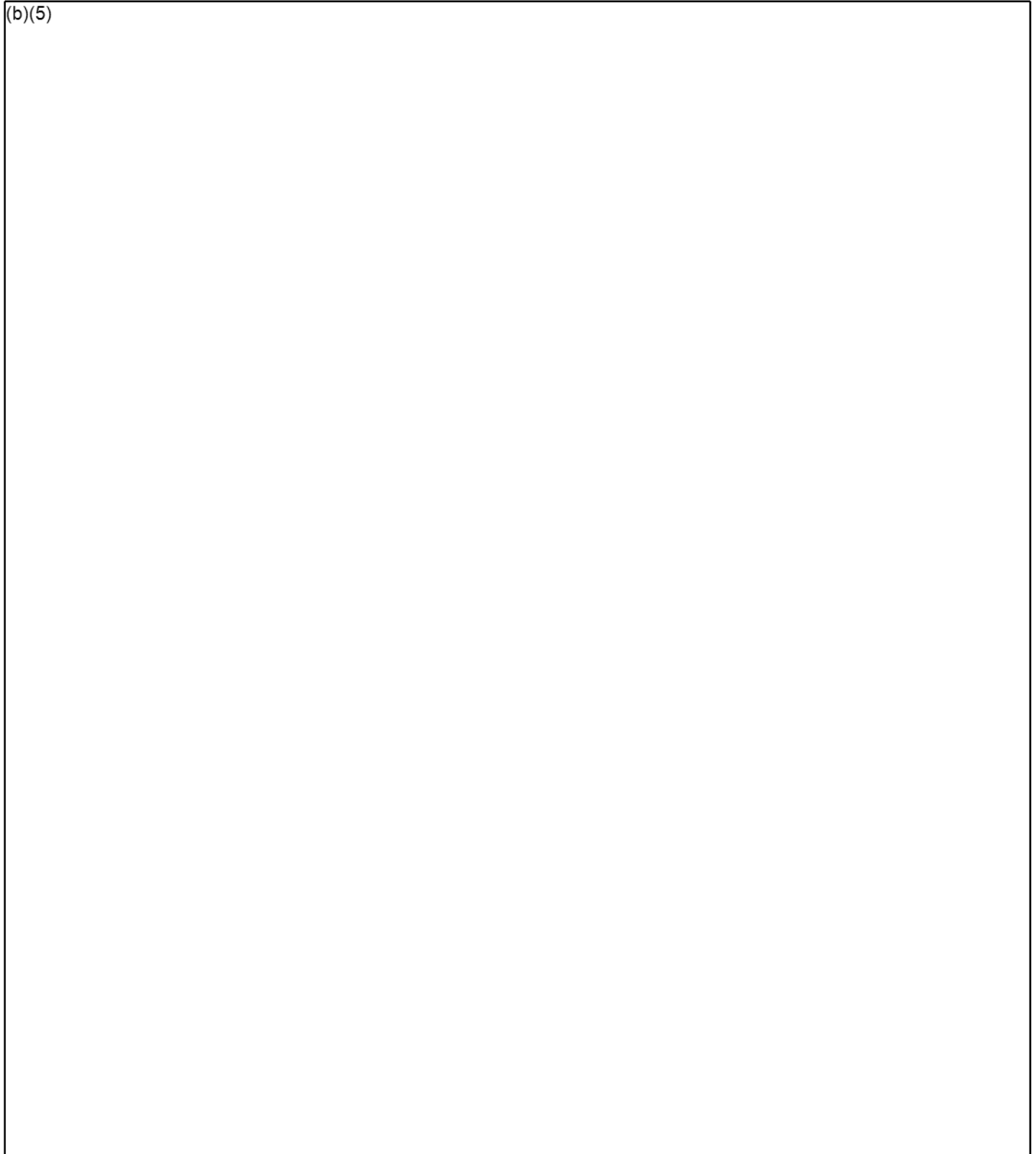
**From:** (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** Stilwell, David R (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6); Fritz, Jonathan D (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: HOT: Virology Labs Breakdown

Sir,

Here is the best I could come up with on short notice:

1. Current CCP virology/pathogen/bio labs (civilian and military); where they are, when they opened; what they do; do we have any confidence in them?

(b)(5)



(b)(5)

2. Last time they were inspected by outside world.

(b)(5)

3. How many did Americans help create?

(b)(5)

4. Previous known lab shortcomings and failures.

(b)(5)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:28 AM

**To:** Stilwell, David R (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6); Fritz, Jonathan D (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: HOT: Virology Labs Breakdown

Sir,

Per our call I will get you my initial thoughts this morning and will reach out to NIAID to try to get more details.

Best,

(b)(6)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** Stilwell, David R (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:38:51 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6); (b)(6)

**Subject:** HOT: Virology Labs Breakdown

(b)(6)

Working a question from the 7<sup>th</sup> floor on China's broader virus research efforts. Figured I'd start with you.

Some questions like:

1. Current CCP virology/pathogen/bio labs (civilian and military); where they are, when they opened; what they do; do we have any confidence in them?
2. Last time they were inspected by outside world;
3. How many did Americans help create?
4. Previous known lab shortcomings and failures.

Feel free to call. I understand you probably don't have all the data (I have a request out to INR as well) but maybe you can point us to those who do.

Thanks

Dave

David R. Stilwell

Ass't Secretary East Asia Pacific

(b)(6)

<b>Sender:</b>	"Stilwell, David R"
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)



<b>From:</b>	"Stilwell, David R"
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6) (Geneva) (b)(6) (h)(6)
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: State Department News Briefing (2-18-20)
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 18 Feb 2020 12:22:37 +0000

Have they requested access to specific sites in Wuhan? (b)(5)

(b)(5) When PRC AMB to the US Cui was asked that question on a news show last week, he bridged.

Get Outlook for iOS

**From:** (b)(6) (Geneva) (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 7:09:01 AM

**To:** Stilwell, David R (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: State Department News Briefing (2-18-20)

We understand that they are in Beijing and Guangzhou but are not being given access to Hubei.

Garrett Grigsby (b)(6) from HHS is the lead for the Secretary, knows what CDC is doing and has been very responsive.

I've also attached an email that I sent to Tedros (WHO) over the weekend on access. And have asked HHS to help focus the list down to very specific asks/deliverables and timetables.

I am doing a secure call on a related topic today at 11:45 EST with some folks from NSC (invited Feith). But of course you would be more than welcome to join; should be short.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Stilwell, David R (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 12:55 PM

**To:** (h)(6) (Geneva)

(h)(6)

**Cc:** (h)(6)

**Subject:** FW: State Department News Briefing (2-18-20)

(h)(6)

EAP could use updates on the status of WHO/CDC access. Can you put me in contact with someone at CDC who's tracking? WHO only if they're prone to report factually.

Thanks

Dave

---

**From:** TechMIS - DOS Daily <[dos@techmis.com](mailto:dos@techmis.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 4:43 AM  
**To:** [noreply@techmis.com](mailto:noreply@techmis.com)  
**Subject:** State Department News Briefing (2-18-20)

## STATE DEPARTMENT NEWS BRIEFING

Prepared for the U.S. Department of State  
By TechMIS  
[www.TechMIS.com](http://www.TechMIS.com)

Mobile User Copy

**TO: State Department & Staff**  
**DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:00 AM ET**

### State Department News

#### **Huawei Winning the Argument in Europe, U.S. Considering New Wave of China Tech Restrictions**

The [New York Times](#) [2/17/2020 7:29 PM, David E. Sanger and David McCabe, 23673K, Neutral] reports that America's global campaign to prevent its closest allies from using Huawei, the Chinese telecom giant, in the next generation of wireless networks has largely failed, with foreign leaders publicly rebuffing the United States argument that the firm poses an unmanageable security threat. Britain has already called the Trump administration's bluff, betting that officials would back away from their threat to cut off intelligence sharing with any country that used Huawei equipment in its network. Germany now appears ready to follow a similar path, despite an endless stream of cajoling and threats by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper and other U.S. officials at a global security conference in Munich last weekend. Fear of Chinese retaliation has gripped Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and her government. While Germany's intelligence chiefs have largely joined the American assessment of Huawei's national security dangers, Ms. Merkel is focused on the effects on German exports to China, especially after Chinese officials have hinted that Volkswagen, BMW and Daimler, the maker of the Mercedes-Benz, would bear the brunt of retaliation. The Huawei fight is just one part of a bigger U.S.-China battle, as Washington tries to contain Beijing's influence and power and ensure that the world's second-largest economy does not come to dominate advanced industries that could give it an economic and military edge. The United States is also trying to limit China's access to American technology more broadly and is considering restricting sales of microchips, artificial intelligence, robotics and some types of advanced software, along with preventing tech companies from teaming up — or even sharing research — with Chinese firms. [Bloomberg](#) [2/17/2020 7:16 PM, Shawn Donnan, 6400K, Neutral] reports that the Trump administration is considering new restrictions on exports of cutting-edge technology to China in a push aimed at limiting Chinese progress in developing its own passenger jets and clamping down further on tech giant Huawei's access to vital semiconductors, according to four people familiar with the discussions. Senior officials are expected to decide by the end of this month whether to block exports of jet engines made by a General

Electric Co. joint venture with France's Safran to China for use in the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China's C919 single-aisle passenger jet now undergoing flight tests, three of the people familiar with the discussions said. At the same time, the administration is also considering separate measures to broaden export controls related to the Trump administration's restrictions on Huawei Technologies Co. by blocking foreign chipmakers, such as Taiwan's TSMC and U.S. suppliers, from selling components made overseas to Huawei, according to some of the people. Both moves come as some within the Trump administration are pushing for more aggressive efforts to limit China's technological rise and to contain what they see as a potential national security threats or rivals to U.S. innovative power in the 21st century. That effort so far has been focused largely on Huawei but has led to broader fears of a new technological Cold War splintering the global tech industry. [Reuters](#) [2/17/2020 4:40 PM, Alexandra Alper and Karen Freifeld, Neutral] reports that the Trump administration is considering changing U.S. regulations to allow it to block shipments of chips to Huawei Technologies from companies such as Taiwan's TSMC (2330.TW), the world's largest contract chipmaker. New restrictions on commerce with China's Huawei are among several options to be considered at high-level U.S. meetings this week and next. The chip proposal has been drafted but its approval is far from certain, one of the sources said. The measure would be a blow to the world's no. 2 smartphone maker as well as to TSMC, a major producer of chips for Huawei's HiSilicon unit and mobile phone rivals Apple Inc (AAPL.O) and Qualcomm Inc (QCOM.O).

### **Coronavirus Updates: Disease roughly 20 times deadlier than seasonal flu; China reports new cases**

The [New York Times](#) [2/18/2020 1:05 AM, Staff, 23673K, Neutral] reports that an analysis of 44,672 coronavirus patients in China whose diagnoses were confirmed by laboratory testing has found that 1,023 had died by Feb. 11. That's a fatality rate of 2.3 percent. Figures released on a daily basis suggest the rate has further increased in recent days. That is far higher than the mortality rate of the seasonal flu, with which the new coronavirus has sometimes been compared. The new analysis was posted online by researchers at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The fatality rate among patients in Hubei Province, the center of China's outbreak, was more than seven times higher than that of other provinces. [AP](#) [2/17/2020 9:53 PM, Yanan Wang, 2182K, Negative] reports that China reported 1,886 new virus cases and 98 more deaths in its update Tuesday on a disease outbreak that has caused milder illness in most people, an assessment that promoted guarded optimism from global health authorities. The update raised the number of deaths in mainland China to 1,868 and the total confirmed cases to 72,436. The death rate is lower than for SARS and MERS, diseases caused by coronaviruses related to the one that causes COVID-19. But the new virus ultimately could prove more deadly if it spreads to far more people than the others did. Ordinary flu has a fatality rate of 0.1% yet kills hundreds of thousands because it infects millions each year.

### **14 Evacuated Americans Test Positive for Coronavirus**

[\(B\) NBC Nightly News With Lester Holt](#) [2/17/2020 6:32 PM, Miguel Almaguer] reports that under heavy guard, the largest cluster of Americans infected with the coronavirus arrived in the U.S. today, now headed for treatment. The 14 sick passengers isolated on their flight in bio containment pods kept clear of more than 300 others in two emergency charters. They will spend at least two weeks in quarantine after spending 14 days in isolation on the Diamond Princess cruise ship off the coast of Japan. The State Department is allowing the

14 unidentified sick passengers who showed no symptoms to return to the U.S., learning they were infected just before takeoff. An economic toll is rippling around the world. The [New York Times](#) [2/17/2020 8:43 PM, Motoko Rich and Edward Wong, 1670K, Neutral] reports that a day before 328 Americans were to be whisked away from a contaminated cruise ship in Japan, the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo told passengers that no one infected with the coronavirus would be allowed to board charter flights to the United States. But as the evacuees began filing onto two reconfigured cargo planes early Monday for departures to military bases in California or Texas, some noticed tented areas separated from the rest of the cabin. While the planes were aloft, the State Department and the Department of Health and Human Services said in a joint statement that the results for 14 passengers who had been tested two or three days earlier had come back positive — just as they were heading to the airport in buses. American officials, it turned out, had started bringing the passengers home without actually knowing their test results. But because the evacuation had already begun by the time Japanese officials relayed those results, officials decided to let the infected evacuees, who were not yet exhibiting symptoms, board the planes and sit in the back, separated from other passengers by plastic sheets about 10 feet tall. [CNN](#) [2/17/2020 11:52 PM, Daniel Allman, Hollie Silverman, and Konstantin Toropin, 5551K, Neutral] reports that more than a dozen Americans evacuated on US-chartered flights from a cruise ship docked in Japan were being tested for the novel coronavirus at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, health officials said Monday. The 13 patients, who were among 300 Americans quarantined aboard the Diamond Princess for nearly two weeks, had either tested positive for the virus or had a high likelihood of testing positive because of their symptoms. The patients arrived at the hospital early Monday and were awaiting test results. Twelve patients were transported to the hospital's National Quarantine Center. One patient with a chronic condition was taken to a bio-containment unit for further evaluation, health officials said. [Bloomberg](#) [2/17/2020 11:11 PM, Karen Leigh, 6400K, Neutral] reports that Canada said 32 of its citizens aboard the stricken Diamond Princess have tested positive for the coronavirus. Japan said earlier Tuesday that it expected to remove all passengers from the cruise liner by Friday, and South Korea said it would evacuate its citizens and fly them back to Seoul. The ship remains docked at the port of Yokohama. The U.K. government also said it was "working to organize" a flight home for British nationals aboard the ship.

**[Libya] UN: Impact of long Libya war on civilians is 'incalculable'**

[AP](#) [2/17/2020 8:40 PM, Edith M. Lederer, 2182K, Neutral] reports that the U.N humanitarian coordinator for Libya said Monday the impact of the country's nine-year war on civilians "is incalculable," pointing to its intensity escalating "exponentially" since a rebel commander launched an offensive last April, casualties rising and almost 900,000 people now needing assistance. Yacoub El Hillo said a 55-point road map for ending the war in Libya which was agreed to by 12 key leaders at a conference in Berlin on Jan. 19, endorsed last week by the U.N. Security Council, and reaffirmed at a meeting in Munich on Sunday has seen "serious violations" in the last 10 days, with new strikes in and around the capital Tripoli. El Hillo, who is also the U.N. deputy representative for the oil-rich North African country, said in a briefing to journalists by video from Tripoli that the protracted conflict is "severely impacting civilians in all parts of the country on a scale never seen before." On a potentially positive note, a Joint Military Commission comprising representatives of the warring parties is scheduled to begin a second round of talks Tuesday in Geneva under U.N. auspices, with the aim of agreeing to a lasting cease-fire.

**[Syria] Turkey-Russia Standoff in Syria Leaves Millions of Refugees Caught in Chaos**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) [2/17/2020 4:50 PM, David Gauthier-Villars and Nazih Osseiran, Neutral] reports that Turkey dispatched a delegation to Moscow on Monday for another round of talks aimed at forging a cease-fire agreement in Syria, where relief agencies warn that a deadly vortex of proxy wars could cause the worst humanitarian disaster in the nine-year conflict. At stake is control of Idlib province, a patch of land the size of Delaware that is the last stronghold of Turkish-backed rebels resisting the regime of President Bashar al Assad, which is backed by Russia. The battle for Idlib represents a test for Turkey's geopolitical gambit to reposition itself away from the U.S. and other allies in the North Atlantic military alliance, and closer to Russia, notably with the purchase of sophisticated Russian-made air-defense missiles—a deal which has upset the Pentagon. Short of a solid truce and retreat of the Syrian army before the end of February, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened to launch a full-blown attack on the Assad regime. If there is no pullback, Turkey will “handle it,” Mr. Erdogan said Saturday. The two countries had struck an agreement in Sochi in September 2018 to halt fighting in the northwestern province bordering Turkey, leading scores of civilians fleeing war elsewhere in Syria to seek refuge in Idlib. But backed by Russian aircraft, Assad troops resumed an offensive to reclaim Idlib territory two and half months ago, leaving 3.5 million people entrapped in what relief workers say has effectively become the world's largest refugee camp. Unrelenting shelling and air strikes sent some 900,000 people, most of them women and children, on the road in recent weeks, according to the United Nations. Last week alone, 13 people died of frostbite as displaced people flee in search of elusive shelters, according to Osama Alhoussin, who manages relief programs for the UOSSM aid group in Idlib.

**[Turkey] Turkey to arrest 228 for links to cleric in probe of military, ministry: Anadolu**

[Reuters](#) [2/18/2020 12:12 AM, Daren Butler, 5304K, Negative] reports that Turkish prosecutors investigating the military and justice ministry on Tuesday ordered the arrest of 228 people over suspected links to the network that Ankara says was behind a 2016 coup attempt. There has been a sustained crackdown on alleged followers of U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen since the failed putsch in July 2016, in which some 250 people were killed. Police still routinely carry out raids targeting suspects. In the latest moves, prosecutors ordered the arrest of 157 people, including 101 serving officers, in an investigation of the Turkish Armed Forces. Separately, prosecutors in the capital Ankara ordered the detention of 71 people in an investigation targeting alleged Gulen supporters in the justice ministry, 33 of them currently working in the ministry. Since the attempted coup, around 80,000 people have been jailed pending trial and some 150,000 civil servants, military personnel and others sacked or suspended from their jobs.

**[China] China to grant tariff exemptions on additional U.S. goods**

[Reuters](#) [2/18/2020 12:25 AM, Stella Qiu and Se Young Lee, 5304K, Negative] reports that China said on Tuesday it would accept applications for new tariff exemptions for 696 products imported from the United States including key agricultural and energy products such as pork, beef, soybeans, liquefied natural gas and crude oil. The exemptions, the third and the most substantial set to be granted to date by China since the start of the trade dispute with the United States, come a month after the signing of a Phase 1 trade deal between Washington and Beijing. China has committed to boosting its purchases of goods and services from the United States by \$200 billion over two years. Other products subject

to exemption on additional tariffs imposed during the escalation of the bilateral trade dispute include denatured ethanol and some wheat, corn and sorghum. Some medical devices and metals including copper ore and concentrates, copper scrap and aluminum scrap are also subject to exemption, China's finance ministry said in a statement. The exemptions come amid a coronavirus epidemic that has seriously disrupted the world's second-largest economy. Some U.S. officials and analysts have raised questions about China's ability to meet the purchasing commitments specified in the Phase 1 trade deal due to the coronavirus.

### **[Japan] Japan approves bill to help firms to develop 5G, drone technologies (Reuters)**

Reuters [2/17/2020 10:42 PM, Kaori Kaneko, 5304K, Positive] reports that Japan's cabinet on Tuesday approved a bill to support companies to develop secure 5G mobile networks and drone technologies amid growing alarm among Tokyo policymakers over the increasing influence of China's 5G technology. The bill will give companies which develop such technologies access to low-interest rate loans from government-affiliated financial institutions if their plans fulfill standards on cyber security. Companies that adopt 5G technologies can also get tax incentives if they meet standards set by the government, according to the bill. The government will submit the bill to the parliament and aims to bring it to effect around summer. Last December, Japan unveiled tax measures aimed at encouraging companies to spend their cash piles on start-ups and other investments and stimulating a slowing economy, while also helping firms to compete with China's advance in 5G technology.

### **[Afghanistan] As Afghan Soldier Kills 2 Americans, U.S. and Taliban Near Deal in Afghanistan**

(B) Special Report With Bret Baier [2/17/2020 6:22 PM, Mike Tobin] reports that Taliban fighters continue to strike Afghan government targets despite an agreement for a reduction in violence. 19 government troops were killed in Helmut province. Commanders in three provinces said they heard about the agreement, but until they get direct orders from their superiors, they will hit targets. U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said a deal had been struck with Taliban representatives which calls for a period of seven days with no bombs or rocket attacks. After that a truce with the U.S. and the Taliban could be signed as soon as February 29th. Afghan President Ghani said to strike a deal, the Taliban would have to abandon totalitarian principles. Negotiations include the potential release of 3,000-5,000 Taliban prisoners. A Taliban spokesman said 5,000 Taliban prisoners would be released in exchange for 1,000 Afghan government detainees if a deal is signed. The Washington Times [2/17/2020 1:53 PM, Guy Taylor, 482K, Negative] reports that Taliban leaders confirmed for the first time Monday that a major peace deal with the Trump administration could be signed by the end of the month, although doubts swirled around the claim amid reports of ongoing attacks by the militant group in Afghanistan. Afghan government troops backed by U.S. and allied forces came under attack Sunday night and some Taliban commanders — despite the peace deal claims by the group's leaders — said Monday that they had yet not received orders stand down and would continue operations until ordered otherwise. The Taliban statement came after top U.S. officials had told various news outlets that the two sides were on the verge of securing a major peace deal and had reached a short-term "reduction of violence" pact that was supposed to include a freeze on attacks by both sides in the days before an agreement could be signed. But amid deep skepticism

about the cease-fire and a peace deal, the Trump administration's top envoy to talks said Monday that he remains "cautiously optimistic" that a breakthrough deal remains imminent after 18 months of backroom negotiations with Taliban representatives. U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad told reporters at an event in Pakistan that U.S. officials have obtained "commitments from the Talib[an] on security issues," according to Agence France-Presse, which declining to offer specifics. The crux of a deal is believed to center on Taliban willingness to work with the Kabul government to purge Islamic State, al Qaeda and other international terrorist groups that have found sanctuary in the country, in exchange for a withdrawal of U.S. and international combat troops. The Pentagon is reportedly pushing to keep at least a small special operations presence in the country to deal with the terrorist threat. Mr. Hanafi, a key Taliban player in direct talks with Mr. Khalilzad's team in Doha, claimed the two sides would sign an agreement in the Qatari capital that would involve the U.S. withdrawing from Afghanistan and releasing some 5,000 Taliban prisoners in exchange for about 1,000 Afghans imprisoned by the militant group. It was not immediately clear whether the Afghan government of President Ashraf Ghani has signed off on the deal. Analysts also question whether ground-level commanders in the Taliban support the agreement.

### **[India] India Offers Concessions on U.S. Farm Goods to Reach Trade Deal**

Bloomberg [2/18/2020 12:05 AM, Shruti Srivastava, 6400K, Neutral] reports that India is open to greater market access for American farm and dairy products and lower duties on Harley-Davidson Inc. motorcycles as it seeks to conclude a trade deal with the U.S. in time for President Donald Trump's scheduled visit next week, according to people with knowledge of the matter. New Delhi is willing to allow market access for U.S.-produced cranberries, blueberries, pecan nuts and avocados at lower duties. Also on the cards is allowing some imports of dried distilled grains soluble, a by-product of ethanol production used in animal feed and alfalfa hay, a plant used for fodder, said the people, asking not to be identified citing rules. Even as talks are on between the two nations to have some sort of a deal on the table ahead of Trump's state visit on Feb. 24-25, there is no clarity yet on when a final agreement will be ready. Trade talks between Washington and New Delhi have been stalled since before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's U.S. visit in September.

### **[Pakistan] Pakistan no longer a militant safe haven: PM Imran Khan**

Yahoo News/AFP [2/17/2020 10:40 AM, Staff, Neutral] reports that Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan insisted Monday that his country is no longer a militant safe haven, and said his administration fully supports the Afghan peace process. Khan's assertion was however challenged hours later, when a suicide bomber targeted a religious rally in the southwestern province of Balochistan. The premier's comments come as the US and the Taliban appear on the brink of a deal that would see US forces begin to pull out of Afghanistan. In return, the Taliban would enter talks with the Afghan government, stick to various security guarantees and work toward an eventual, comprehensive ceasefire. Pakistan, which has long been accused of supporting the Taliban and other extremist groups along its border with Afghanistan, is seen as key to helping secure and implement any deal. While Pakistan cannot "completely guarantee" that no Taliban are hiding among the estimated 2.7 million Afghans living in the country, Khan said his government had done all it can to prevent attacks in Afghanistan, including by building a border fence.

### **[Brazil] Protesters disrupt shipments in Brazil's largest port: union**

Reuters [2/17/2020 3:39 PM, Roberto Samora and Rodrigo Viga Gaier, Neutral] reports that Brazilian truck drivers began protesting early on Monday at Latin America's largest port in Santos, affecting the unloading of shipments and arrival of trucks at the port. The protesters are demanding a reduction of value-added taxes on gasoline and diesel, the port's management said. A press representative for the port said it could not confirm the information provided by the union. But the port did say that the protest had affected some unloading activities.

### **[Mexico] Killing of 7-year-old stokes anger in Mexico over femicides**

AP [2/17/2020 10:12 PM, Staff, 2182K, Negative] reports that the killing of a 7-year-old girl on the southern outskirts of Mexico City has stoked rising anger over the brutal slayings of women, including one found stabbed to death and skinned earlier this month. The city prosecutor's office said Monday that investigators identified a body found over the weekend as that of Fatima, a grade-school student who was taken by a stranger on Feb. 11. Her body was found wrapped in a bag and abandoned in a rural area on Saturday and was identified by genetic testing. The cause of death has not been released. Five people have been questioned in the case, and video footage of her abduction exists. Guillermo Anton Godínez, the girl's grandfather, said Monday that his daughter arrived at the school 15 or 20 minutes after the woman led the girl away. He added that his granddaughter had left the school wearing her uniform, but the woman had put a green shirt and pants on her. His daughter was initially told that authorities couldn't begin searching for 72 hours after her disappearance, he said. However, the prosecutors office said an Amber alert was issued about the girl's disappearance the same day that relatives reported her missing. Many relatives and commentators called for urgent changes to primary school safety protocols. At government schools in urban areas of Mexico, children simply walk out on the street after classes end. Although their parents are often waiting outside, it is not the school's responsibility to make sure someone is waiting to meet them. Reuters [2/17/2020 9:47 PM, Noe Torres and Anthony Esposito, 5304K, Negative] reports that relatives of a seven-year-old girl murdered in Mexico said on Monday the government had failed to protect her despite their pleas, while President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador appeared to blame the crime on neo-liberal economics. Fatima Cecilia Aldrighett went missing on Feb. 11. Her body was discovered over the weekend in a plastic garbage bag in Mexico City's Tlahuac neighborhood, days after another murder of a young woman triggered angry protests. Sonia Lopez, Aldrighett's aunt, said the girl could have been found alive if authorities had listened to the family. Lopez said precious hours were wasted after Aldrighett was reported missing. She also said social services had not heeded calls to help the girl's mother, who has health problems, support her daughter. An average of 10 women a day are killed in Mexico and the year 2019, the first of Lopez Obrador's government, set an overall homicide record, according to official data. Victims of femicide increased 10% in 2019 to over 1,000.

### **[Venezuela] Maduro says 'not afraid of military combat' in Venezuela**

Yahoo News/AFP [2/17/2020 11:02 PM, Staff, 10942K, Neutral] reports that President Nicolas Maduro on Monday said he is "not afraid of military combat," accusing his US counterpart Donald Trump of plotting to invade Venezuela with the support of regional allies. "We don't want war; we don't want violence; we don't want terrorism, but we are not afraid of military combat and we are going to guarantee peace," said Maduro in a televised speech, surrounded by the armed forces high command. Military exercises were carried out



over the weekend, Maduro added, in response to alleged attack plans orchestrated by the US, Colombia and Brazil. According to official figures, some 2.4 million soldiers and members of the civilian militia were deployed throughout the country.

### **[Cameroon] Cameroon army blames accident for village 'massacre'**

[Yahoo News/AFP \[2/17/2020 5:02 PM, Staff, Negative\]](#) reports that Cameroon's army on Monday denied opposition charges that it had massacred villagers in a troubled English-speaking region, blaming instead an "unfortunate accident" caused by an explosion of fuel during a firefight. Up to 22 civilians, 14 of them children, died in the incident on Friday, according to the United Nations -- deaths which opposition parties blamed on members of the armed forces. But army spokesman Colonel Cyrille Atonfack Guemo described the allegations as "duplicitous." An army investigation, he said, found that the deaths happened after fuel was set ablaze during a gunfight with anglophone separatists. Five civilians -- a woman and four children -- died, and "seven terrorists" were "neutralised", Atonfack told AFP in Libreville by phone. The deaths occurred in the village of Ntumbo in Cameroon's Northwest Region -- one of two English-speaking regions that have been grappling with separatist violence since October 2017. More than 3,000 people have died and at least 700,000 have fled their homes.

## **Headlines**

### **The Washington Post**

(2/18/2020 6:00 AM)

[14 with virus arrive in U.S.](#)

[Major Va. gun-control bill dies in committee](#)

[CIA's window into brutal S. American campaign](#)

[When Mom is a face on the phone](#)

[Money flowed in secret from McCarrick to accused cleric](#)

### **The New York Times**

(2/18/2020 6:00 AM)

[As Afghan Soldier Kills 2 Americans, Peace Talks Forge Ahead](#)

[They Escaped an Infected Ship, but the Flight Home Was No Haven](#)

[Huawei Is Winning the Argument in Europe, as the U.S. Fumbles to Develop Alternatives](#)

[Apple Signals Coronavirus's Threat to Global Businesses](#)

[Payout From a National Opioids Settlement Won't Be as Big as Hoped](#)

### **The Wall Street Journal**

(2/18/2020 6:00 AM)

[Apple to Fall Short of Projected Revenue Due to Coronavirus](#)

[Coronavirus Cruise Passengers Land in U.S., Including 14 Infected](#)

[France's Alstom to Buy Bombardier Train Unit](#)

[Can Solar Power Compete With Coal? In India, It's Gaining Ground](#)

[Pull-Ups, Sit-Ups Don't Hurt as Much as These High-Fashion Gym Get-Ups](#)

### **ABC News**

(2/18/2020 6:00 AM)

14 Americans evacuated from cruise ship in Japan test positive for coronavirus

Civil society figures back in court in Turkey protest trial

Mexico attorney general says case of ex-oil chief 'symbolic'

### **CBS News**

(2/18/2020 6:00 AM)

Americans from coronavirus-stricken cruise ship in Japan arrive in U.S.

U.S. officials sound alarm on China at global security conference

Until today, China has reported thousands more coronavirus cases than the World Health Organization. Here's why

### **CNN**

(2/18/2020 6:00 AM)

Here's how long coronaviruses may linger on contaminated surfaces, according to science

Syrians are in a desperate race to outrun a brutal regime offensive

Did Xi Jinping know about the coronavirus outbreak earlier than first suggested?

### **Fox News**

(2/18/2020 6:00 AM)

Navy preps its new USS Ford carrier for massive ocean warfare

Denmark finds huge cocaine stash on cargo ship; 27 arrested

Database shows how China targets minority Uighur Muslims

### **NBC News**

(2/18/2020 6:00 AM)

14 Americans test positive for coronavirus after evacuation from quarantined cruise ship

Apple says coronavirus will keep it from meeting revenue expectations

Jeff Bezos commits \$10 billion to combat climate change

## **Washington Schedule**

### **President**

The White House

(2/18/2020 6:00 AM)

9:00 AM In-House Pool Call Time

11:00 AM Out-of-Town Pool Call Time

12:30 PM The President departs the White House en route to Joint Base Andrews

12:55 PM The President arrives at Joint Base Andrews

1:05 PM The President departs Washington, D.C., en route to Los Angeles, CA

6:25 PM The President arrives at Los Angeles International Airport

6:35 PM The President departs Los Angeles, CA, en route to Santa Monica, CA

6:40 PM The President arrives at Santa Monica, CA

6:50 PM The President departs Santa Monica Airport Landing Zone en route to Montage Beverly Hills

7:05 PM The President arrives at Montage Beverly Hills

7:10 PM The President participates in a briefing with the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic

**Committee and LA 2028 Organizers**

8:45 PM The President participates in a roundtable with supporters

9:15 PM The President delivers remarks at a joint fundraising committee dinner

10:05 PM The President departs Beverly Hills, CA, en route to Santa Monica, CA

10:20 PM The President arrives at Santa Monica Airport Landing Zone

10:30 PM The President departs Santa Monica, CA, en route to Los Angeles, CA

10:35 PM The President arrives at Los Angeles International Airport

10:45 PM The President depart Los Angeles, CA, en route to Las Vegas, NV

11:50 PM The President arrives at McCarran International Airport

**Vice President**

The White House

(2/18/2020 6:00 AM)

See source link. Schedule not yet available.

**Senate**

Senate

(2/18/2020 6:00 AM)

There are no committee hearings scheduled.

**House of Representatives**

House of Representatives

(2/18/2020 6:00 AM)

There are no public events scheduled.

**{End of Report}**

<b>Sender:</b>	"Stilwell, David R"
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6) (Geneva) (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	(b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6) (Beijing)(b)(6)@state.gov  
**To:** Beijing ESTH Unit Chiefs <BeijingESTHUnitChiefs@state.gov>  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** FW: 2018 Cable on Visit to the Wuhan Virology Institute  
**Date:** Tue, 10 Mar 2020 16:14:35 +0000

ESTH,

See below and attached. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(Additionally, Rick shared your "PRC COVID-19 Response Shows Progress and Cracks in China's Emergency Preparedness" cable with the EAP FO as a balanced look at China's response. (b)(5)

(b)(5) (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:13 AM  
**To:** EAP-CM-Office-DL <EAP-CM-Office-DL@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** FW: 2018 Cable on Visit to the Wuhan Virology Institute

(b)( ) thanks for digging this up. Flaggng for others on the desk as well.

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:10 AM  
**To:** (b)(6); Fritz, Jonathan D (b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)  
 <(b)(6)@state.gov>(b)(6)@state.gov

**Cc:** EAP-J-Office-DL <EAP-J-Office-DL@state.gov>

**Subject:** FW: 2018 Cable on Visit to the Wuhan Virology Institute

I actually forgot about this cable until very recently and just tracked down a copy.

1. ~~(SBU)~~ **Summary with Comment:** China's Wuhan Institute of Virology, a global leader in virus research, is a key partner for the United States in protecting global health security. Its role as operator of the just-launched Biosafety Level 4 (or "P4") lab -- the first such lab in China -- opens up even more opportunities for expert exchange, especially in light of the lab's shortage of trained staff (Ref A). Given the legacy of SARS and the likelihood that the next global pandemic will originate in China, the United States should prioritize expanding our already significant cooperation with this institute. This should include partnering with the institute on basic science research and the Global Virome Project (Ref B), and possibly trilateral U.S.-China-EU projects, building on the institute's strong ties with France. **End Summary with Comment.**

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	Beijing ESTH Unit Chiefs <BeijingESTHUnitChiefs@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>; OES-STC-China <OES-STC-China@state.gov>
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: 2018 Cable on Visit to the Wuhan Virology Institute
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 10 Mar 2020 18:50:12 +0000

Sorry, should've also included IHB.

--

(b)(6) Ph.D.  
Office of Science and Technology Cooperation (OES/STC)  
U.S. Department of State  
Phone: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov> (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>; OES-STC-China <OES-STC-China@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: 2018 Cable on Visit to the Wuhan Virology Institute

This is great. I've been thinking about this a lot: how much of our inability to contain SARSCoV2 may be related to reduced/impaired S&T engagement? Are there any other aspects that could help us understand this in addition to the details you mention below (b)(6)

--

(b)(6) Ph.D.  
Office of Science and Technology Cooperation (OES/STC)  
U.S. Department of State  
Phone: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:35 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; OES-STC-China <OES-STC-China@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: 2018 Cable on Visit to the Wuhan Virology Institute

Thanks (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:34 PM  
**To:** OES-STC-China <OES-STC-China@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** FW: 2018 Cable on Visit to the Wuhan Virology Institute

All,

See the attached 2018 cable out of Wuhan. (b)(6) has noted that all of the programs mentioned in the cable have since been canceled or defunded: NSF and USAID are gone; Predict was ended; and the NIAID position appears to have gone unfilled. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Regards,

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:13 AM  
**To:** EAP-CM-Office-DL <EAP-CM-Office-DL@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** FW: 2018 Cable on Visit to the Wuhan Virology Institute

(b)(6) thanks for digging this up. Flagging for others on the desk as well.

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:10 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; Fritz, Jonathan D (b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** EAP-J-Office-DL <EAP-J-Office-DL@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: 2018 Cable on Visit to the Wuhan Virology Institute

I actually forgot about this cable until very recently and just tracked down a copy.

1. ~~(SBU)~~ **Summary with Comment:** China's Wuhan Institute of Virology, a global leader in virus research, is a key partner for the United States in protecting global health security. Its role as operator of the just-launched Biosafety Level 4 (or "P4") lab -- the first such lab in China --

opens up even more opportunities for expert exchange, especially in light of the lab's shortage of trained staff (Ref A). Given the legacy of SARS and the likelihood that the next global pandemic will originate in China, the United States should prioritize expanding our already significant cooperation with this institute. This should include partnering with the institute on basic science research and the Global Virome Project (Ref B), and possibly trilateral U.S.-China-EU projects, building on the institute's strong ties with France. **End Summary with Comment.**

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**Sender:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
OES-STC-China <OES-STC-China@state.gov>;  
**Recipient:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>