

Origin and Spread of **COVID-19**

COVID-19 is a novel respiratory disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, a virus of zoonotic origin

Probable sequence of events Based on phylogenetic and epidemiological findings

Bats: The most likely natural hosts of **SARS-CoV-2**

SARS-CoV-2 acquires the ability to cross species barriers and infect new hosts

> The emergence of COVID-19 may be attributed to factors such as global travel, wildlife trade, habitat fragmentation, and urbanization.

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