

China / Society

Chinese laboratory that first shared coronavirus genome with world ordered to close for 'rectification', hindering its Covid-19 research

- No reason was given for the closure of Shanghai facility, which released information about the virus ahead of authorities
- One source at the laboratory said the closure has hampered scientists' research when they should be 'racing against the clock'

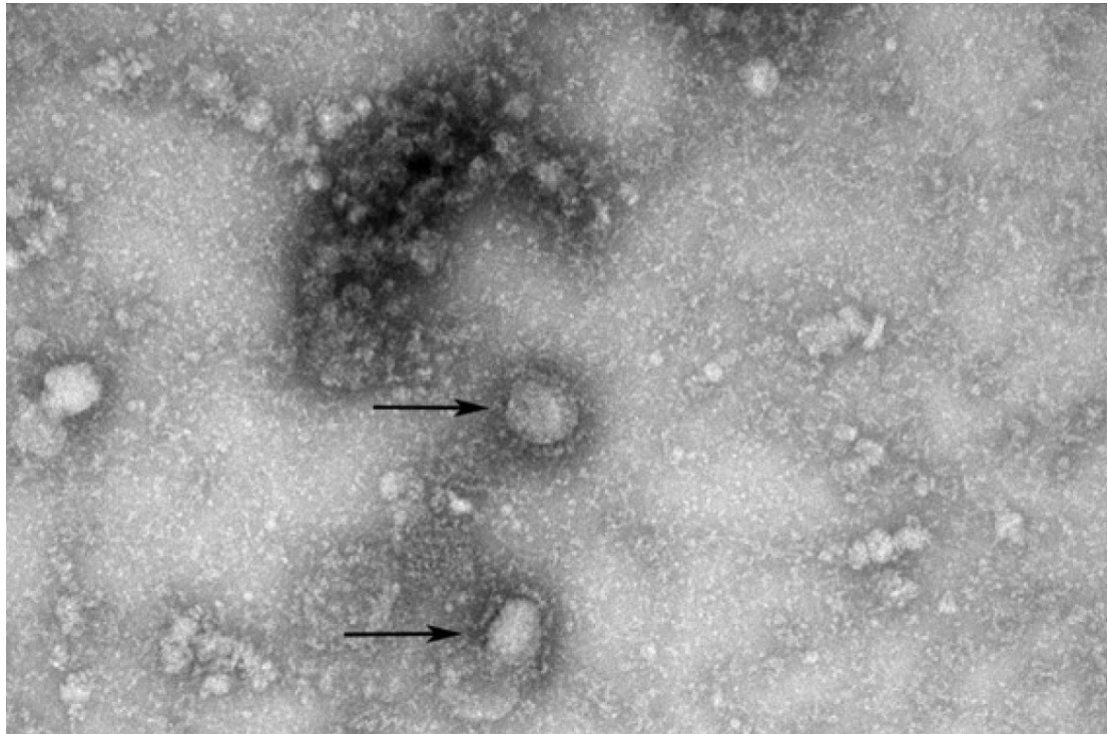


Zhuang Pinghui in Beijing

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The genome sequence was released on open platforms for scientists. Photo: Handout

The Shanghai laboratory where researchers published the world's first genome sequence of the deadly coronavirus that causes Covid-19 has been shut down.

The laboratory at the Shanghai Public Health Clinical Centre was ordered to close for "rectification" on January 12, a day after Professor Zhang Yongzhen's team published the genome sequence on open