



Biden's Failure to Hold Anyone Accountable for COVID-19 Pandemic: One Year In

The COVID-19 pandemic has killed more than five million people and devastated economies around the world. We know the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) covered up the outbreak, turning what could have been a local epidemic into a global pandemic. We know the World Health Organization's (WHO) missteps and misleading statements about the origins of the virus delayed the global response. And we now know U.S. taxpayer money was used to fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), who has a history of conducting this type of research at dangerously unsafe biosafety levels. Yet, to date, the Biden administration has done very little to hold anyone responsible for the pandemic accountable.

The WIV's Unsafe Safety Protocols Led to the Virus Leaking from the Lab

The earliest signs of a respiratory disease spreading in Wuhan were centered around the WIV. In September and October 2019, there was a dramatic rise in hospital visits and admissions in a cluster of hospitals centered around the WIV's headquarters, with patients exhibiting COVID-19 like symptoms. In a city five times larger in area than Houston, with a population the size of New York and Chicago combined, this initial outbreak occurred in an area roughly 31 square miles in size, surrounding the WIV headquarters.

Shi-Zhengli, Ben Hu, and other Chinese scientists at the WIV were actively genetically manipulating coronaviruses to make them more infectious, creating synthetic coronavirus hybrids, and testing them against human immune systems in the months leading up to the first outbreak of COVID-19. We know now they repeatedly successfully created new viruses without leaving any markers that the virus was manmade. And we also know they were conducting some of their research on coronaviruses at dangerously unsafe biosafety levels – making it much easier for a genetically modified virus to leak.

According to the Intelligence Community's (IC) declassified "Assessment on COVID-19 Origins," some in the IC assess "the first human infection was SARS-CoV-2 most likely was the result of a laboratory-associated incident...[at] the Wuhan Institute of Virology." Yet, the Biden administration has failed to hold the CCP accountable and has not demand access and inspections of the WIV. Instead, they have repeatedly deferred leadership on the investigation into the origins of the virus to the WHO, whose repeated attempts to excuse the CCP's gross mishandling of the virus and coverup of the early spread makes them complicit in allowing a regional epidemic to become a global pandemic.

The CCP Cover-Up Allowed the Virus to Become a Global Pandemic

We know the CCP actively engaged in a cover-up designed to limit the sharing of vital information about the virus in the early stage. Their cover-up included punishing doctors, disappearing journalists, censoring the internet in China, spreading disinformation on social media, and withholding information from the WHO and the international community. In fact, it has been discovered the CCP never reported the virus outbreak to the WHO as is required of Member States. The WHO discovered reports of initial cases on a U.S. based website. The CCP has repeatedly rebuffed attempts at any serious investigation into the origins of the virus, and even refused to provide the international community with lab samples, accurate case data, and access to sites of interest around Wuhan. Reports from the Associated Press prove General-Secretary Xi and other senior CCP leaders knew a pandemic was occurring weeks before they implemented a lockdown in Wuhan – allowing millions of people to travel in China and around the world for Lunar New Year celebrations.

Research by the University of Southampton states that if the CCP had instituted a full-scale, public response in early February 2020, up to 95% of cases in China at the end of February could have been prevented. To date, more than 850,000 Americans have reportedly died from COVID-19, yet the Biden administration has done nothing to punish the CCP.



The WHO's Failed Leadership and Deference to the CCP Delayed a Global Response

In the early days of the outbreak, Director-General Tedros and the WHO overly relied on unverifiable CCP talking points about the virus. The most glaring – and damaging – example of this was the WHO claiming for weeks that human-to-human transmission was not occurring, despite warnings from a WHO Collaborating Center at the University of Hong Kong and elsewhere. Months into the pandemic, they continued to use misleading statements that enabled the CCP's propaganda, misinformation, and revisionist history, undermining efforts to stop the spread. They also repeatedly violated the International Health Regulations and their obligations to Member States by not reporting the information that was sent to them about early cases. It is also likely Director-General Tedros and the WHO delayed announcing a Public Health Emergency of International Concern for political reasons – not for medical reasons – to appease the CCP.

Yet President Biden has done nothing to hold the WHO leadership accountable for the role they played in allowing the virus to spread.

U.S. Taxpayer Money Funded Gain-of-Function Research at the WIV

We now know some gain-of-function research conducted by the WIV was funded, in large part, by organizations like EcoHealth Alliance – a U.S. company - using U.S. taxpayer dollars, despite a ban on unapproved research like this. The Biden administration has refused to release the grant applications that funded this work and has taken no steps to investigate how this was allowed to happen. Research papers prove Peter Daszak and his EcoHealth Alliance funded much of the WIV's collection of coronaviruses and the genetic manipulation research they conducted on them. Peter Daszak has made repeated, unverifiable claims as to the type of work his organization supported in China – specifically at the WIV – and has ignored multiple attempts by Members of Congress to contact him for clarification. Yet, the Biden administration's declassified assessment of the origins of COVID-19 never mentions Peter Daszak or the EcoHealth Alliance. In addition, Daszak has not been asked to testify in front of any congressional committees.