

**Gesendet:** Freitag, 04. September 2020 um 19:14 Uhr

**Von:** "Laue, Michael" <LaueM@rki.de>

**An:** "Ha San" <Ha-San@gmx.ch>

**Cc:** "RKI-Pressestelle" <Presse@rki.de>

**Betreff:** AW: AW: Re: Your shot on [rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/NRZ/EM/Aufnahmen/EM\\_Tab\\_covid.html](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/NRZ/EM/Aufnahmen/EM_Tab_covid.html)

Dear Mr. Seidmann,

Answer to question 1:

At the time of publication of our images of SARS-CoV-2 on our homepage the virus was already identified a few months before by chinese researchers (Zhu et al. 2020 (<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2001017>)). Other publications quickly supported this result. At the time we checked the isolates, which were available to us, the information was already impossible to be published because there was no reasonable scientific doubt about SARS-CoV-2 as the causative of the diseases. As already mentioned before, one of our scientific outputs was submitted for publication and is already available as a preprint (<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.08.20.259531v2>)

Answer to question 2:

Isolation of the virus from patient material by using cell cultures is the standard technique, followed by identification of the virus using genome sequencing or PCR. Electron microscopy may serve as a control. Purification of the virus is not necessary for identification. I am not aware of a paper which purified isolated SARS-CoV-2. I am sure that cell culture propagated virus will be purified for particular tests. Simple purification steps, such as purification via sucrose cushion, have been already performed (e.g. Turonova et al. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/08/17/science.abd5223.abstract>)

Kind regards,

Michael Laue