**Jon Stewart on vaccine science and the Wuhan lab theory**

[The late show with Stephen Colbert](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSfejgwbDQ8) 15 June 2021

This video is remarkable. Colbert tries to stop Stewart when he, a couple of minutes into the show, wants to discuss the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic, and not only suggests it was a lab leak but also that the pandemic was likely cause by science. It is also remarkable that YouTube, which has removed a lot of content that to a lesser degree went against the official Chinese narrative that the virus originated in nature, did not remove this video.

2.50 Stewart: “I think we owe a great debt of gratitude to science. Science has in many ways helped ease the suffering of this pandemic, eh, which was more than likely caused by science. So, and that’s kind of…”

Colbert: “Hold on a second.”

“No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. Now, listen. I’ll, I’ll ...”

Colbert (tries to stop Stewart): “This topic, I wouldn’t do that, I wouldn’t do that to you.”

(talk over each other)

Colbert: “What do you mean by that … the chance that it was created in a lab, there was an investigation…”

Stewart: “The chance, oh my God…”

Colbert: “If there is evidence I would love to hear it, I don’t know…”

Stewart: “There is a novel respiratory corona virus overtaking Wuhan, China. What do we do? Oh, we could ask the Wuhan novel respiratory corona virus lab. The disease is the same name as the lab. That’s just a little too weird, don’t you think? And then I ask the scientists, it’s like, how does this, wait a minute, you work at the Wuhan respiratory corona virus lab, how did this happen? And then like, woo, the Pangolin kissed the turtle. And then like, no, I, you, you, the name of your lab and you look at the name, look at the name. Can I, let me see your business card, show me your business card. Oh, I work at the corona virus lab in Wuhan. Oh, because there is a corona virus loose in Wuhan. How did that happen? Maybe a bat flew into the cloaca of a turkey and it sneezed into my chili, and now we all have corona virus.

(talk over each other)

4.50 Stewart: “Oh my God. There has been an outbreak of chocolatey goodness near Hershey, Pennsylvania, what do you think happened? Like, oh, I don’t know, maybe a steam shovel mated with a cocoa bean, oh, it’s the (bleep, even the Stewart’s mouth is censored, the lips are blurred so one cannot read the lips) chocolate factory! Maybe that’s it.”

Colbert: “That could be. That could be. That could be.”

Stewart: “By the way, I gave them all tuberculosis.”

Colbert: “Good. That could very well be, and Anthony Fauci and Francis Collins at NIH said it’s definitely been investigated…”

Stewart: “No, it stopped with the logic, and people, and things …”

(talk over each other).

Stewart: “The name of this disease…”

Colbert: “It could be possible, you could be right, it could be possible that they have the lab in Wuhan to study the novel corona virus diseases because in Wuhan, there are a lot of novel corona virus diseases because of the bat population there.”

Stewart: “No, (talk over each other), it’s a local specialty, and it’s the only place to find bats. You won’t find bats (talk over each other), Austin, Texas, has thousands of them that fly out of a cave every night, every night at dusk. Is there a corona virus, an Austin corona virus? No, there doesn’t seem to be an Austin corona virus. The only corona virus we have is in Wuhan where they have a lab called, what’s the lab called again, Steven?”

Colbert: “The Wuhan novel corona lab.”

Stewart: “I believe that’s the case.”

Colbert: “How long have you worked for Senator Ron Johnson?”

Stewart: “Let me tell you about Senator Ron Johnson. This is not a conspiracy.” (talk over each other)

Colbert: “You could be right.”

Stewart: “But this is the problem with science. Science is incredible. But they don’t know where to stop. And nobody in the room with those cats ever goes, oh, I don’t think we should do that.”

Colbert: “I agree with you. If they can do, they will do.”

Stewart: “They will do. Oh, curiosity killed the cat. Okay, let’s kill ten thousands cats to find out why. And it’s like, that’s what science does, they push things, they do things like, okay, listen to this. A few years back…”

Colbert: “You know we have stopped filming a lot…”

Stewart: “I understand that, but I can tell you, this is, this is what happened. I’ve been (long pause, makes a grimace), I, I’ve, I’ve been alone for so long (grimaces, like flirting), and when I realise that the laboratory was having the same name (pause), first name and last name (pause) of the evil that has been plaguing us, I thought to myself that… (bleep and blurred mouth) This is what I will …” (talk over each other)

Colbert: “I will tell you what I am suspicious of. I am suspicious of the Daytona Beach Spring Break Herpes Lab. That might be where all the herpes come from.”

Stewart: “Ah, I’ve been to that lab.”

Colbert: “I know. How I know? We will have to take a brief break, Jon. We’ll be right back with more of wherever this ending happened. Figure out.”

According to [an article](https://www.avclub.com/jon-stewart-sort-of-endorses-the-covid-lab-theory-to-th-1847099307), later in the show, “as Stewart expressed his love and respect for scientists and the noble work they routinely perform in enhancing human life and knowledge, he also concluded, ‘They are going to kill us all,’ suggesting that the final words ever spoken on this Earth will be a scientist’s musing, ‘Huh, it worked.’” I have not been able to find this part of the show.