1	Supplementary Information for
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3	SARS-CoV-2 N protein antagonizes type I interferon signaling by suppressing
4	phosphorylation and nuclear translocation of STAT1 and STAT2
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9	This PDF file includes:
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11	Supplementary Materials and Methods
12	Supplementary Tables S1
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22	Other Supplementary Materials for this manuscript include the following:
23	
24	None
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Supplementary Materials and Methods 26

Cell culture and transfection 27

Human embryonic kidney 293T (293T) cells and HepG2 cells were obtained 28 commercially from the American Type Culture Collection (Manassas, VA, USA) and 29 30 maintained in modified Eagle's medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Gibco, South America, USA), 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100 µg/ml streptomycin at 31 37°C in an incubator with 5% CO2. Transfection of cells was conducted using 32 Lipofectamine 2000 or Lipofectamine 3000 (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) 33 34 according to the manufacturer's protocol.

35

Plasmids construction 36

Construction of pRK-Flag-N (SARS-CoV-2) was described previously¹. The plasmids 37 of ISRE promoter luciferase reporter and plasmids of STAT1/2 with HA tagged at the 38 N-terminus were kindly provided by Dr. Xinwen Chen (Wuhan, China). 39

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Construction of stable expression of Flag-tagged SARS-CoV-2 N protein in 293T 41 cells

Full-length cDNA encoding SARS-CoV-2 N was amplified from pRK-Flag-N plasmid 43 and then was inserted into pCDH-CMV-MCS-EF1-CoGFP-T2A-puro vector to obtain 44 Flag-tagged SARS-CoV-2 N overexpressing plasmid. pCDH-Flag-N lentivirus 45 particles were obtained by co-transfecting pCDH-Flag-N with packaging plasmids 46 (pMD2.G and pCMV-dR8.91) into 293T cells, we obtained Flag-N lentivirus particles. 47

48 293T cells were infected with concentrated Flag-N lentivirus particles and then were 49 screened by puromycin to obtain stable Flag-N-overexpressed cell line. The protein 50 expression of Flag-N was detected by western blot analysis and immunofluorescence.

51

52 Virus infection

SeV was kindly provided by Dr. Xinwen Chen. All virus was amplified and titrated by
standard plaque or focus-forming assays². Cells were infected with SeV (50
hemagglutination units per ml). SARS-CoV-2 was kindly provided by Dr. Zhengli Shi.
HepG2 cells were infected with SARS-CoV-2 at a multiplicities of infection (MOI) of
0.1 and harvested at 24 hours post infection.

58

59 Luciferase assay

Luciferase assay was performed as previously described³. The dual-Luciferase Reporter Assay System (Promega) was used for luciferase assays. Briefly, cells were seeded in 24-well plates and transfected luciferase reporter and pRL-TK plasmids combined with a total of 500 ng of target plasmid or empty control plasmid for 24 hrs. Subsequently, cells were stimulated with IFN α 2 α (50 ng/mL), IFN- β (50 ng/mL), or left untreated for the indicated time periods and luciferase activity was measured.

66

67 Quantitative real-time reverse transcription PCR (qRT-PCR)

68 The qRT-PCR were performed as described previously⁴. Total cellular RNAs were

69 isolated using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's protocols.

The quantification of transcripts was analyzed by real-time RT-PCR with the RT reagent Kit (Takara) and TB Green premix Ex Taq II (Takara). The data were normalized to levels of cellular β -actin mRNA in each individual sample. $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ method was used to calculate relative expression changes. The ratios of gene expression relative to the control were calculated by the $\Delta\Delta C_T$ method as previously described⁴. Data represented the means and standard deviations of three independent experiments. The primers for quantitative RT-PCR are in Supplementary Table S1.

77

78 Western blotting

The Western blotting were performed as described previously⁵. Cells were washed 79 twice in cold phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and lysed in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-80 HCl [pH 7.4], 150 mM NaCl, 1% NP40, 0.25% deoxycholate, and a protease inhibitor 81 cocktail⁶), and the lysates were subjected to SDS-PAGE on 12% gels by western 82 83 blotting according to standard procedures with the relevant antibodies. Rabbit anti-84 GAPDH, HA, STAT1, phospho-STAT1 (Tyr701), STAT2, phospho-STAT2 (Tyr690), antibodies were all purchased from Cell Signaling Technology. Mouse anti-Flag were 85 from Sigma-Aldrich. 86

87

88 **Co-Immunoprecipitation (Co-IP)**

Co-IP was performed as previously described⁷. Cells were rinsed with ice-cold PBS and lysed with RIPA buffer (50 mM Tris, pH7.5, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM DTT) and a protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche). The cell lysates were centrifuged at $12000 \times g$ at 4 °C for 10 min and the supernatants were incubated with anti-HA together with protein-A/G agarose beads (Roche) at 4 °C overnight according to the manufacturer's protocol. The immunoprecipitated samples were centrifuged and
washed three times and subjected to Western blots using anti-HA and anti-Flag.

96 Cell fractionation

97 Cells were rinsed with ice-cold PBS and lysed using Cell fractionation kit (Beyotime, 98 China) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The purified cytoplasmic fraction 99 and the nuclear fraction were subjected to Western blot assays according to standard 100 procedures with the relevant antibodies. Histone H3 (abcam, ab1791), Tubulin (Cell 101 Signaling Technology), phospho-STAT1 (Tyr701), and phospho-STAT2 (Tyr690) 102 antibodies were used.

103

104 Immunofluorescence assay

The immunofluorescence assays were performed as described previously⁸. Briefly, the cells were fixed with 3.7% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 30 min, permeabilized with 0.5% Triton X-100 and blocked in 1% normal goat serum (Boster) in PBS for 30 min on ice. The cells were incubated with anti-HA (1:500 dilution, Invitrogen) or anti-Flag (1:500 dilution, Sigma) primary antibodies. The secondary antibodies were Alexa Fluor

110 568- or 488-conjugated anti-rabbit and anti-mouse antibodies (1:800 dilution,

111 Invitrogen). The nuclear DNA was stained with DAPI (Beyotime).

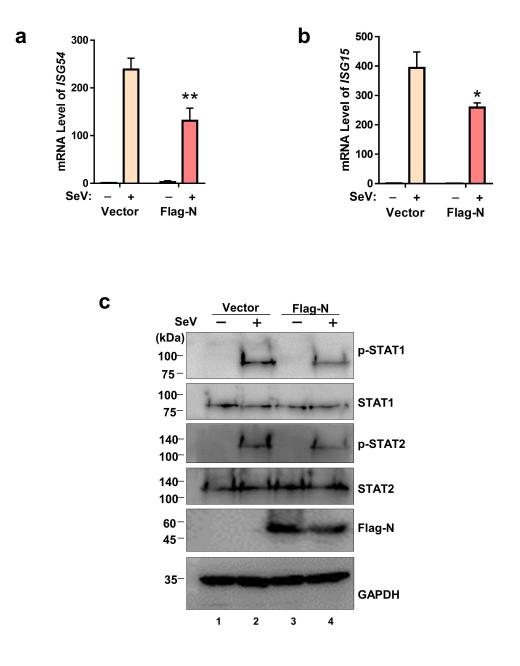
112 **Reference**

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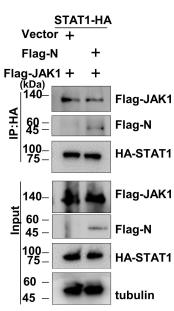
Name	Sequences(5'-3')
RBD-FOR	CAATGGTTTAACAGGCACAGG
RBD-REV	CTCAAGTGTCTGTGGATCACG
ISG56-FOR	TCCCCTAAGGCAGGCTGTC
ISG56-REV	GACATGTTGGCTAGAGCTTCTTC
ISG15-FOR	GAGAGGCAGCGAACTCATCTT
ISG15-REV	CCAGCATCTTCACCGTCAGG
ISG54-FOR	GGTCTCTTCAGCATTTATTGGTG
ISG54-REV	TGCCGTAGGCTGCTCTCCA
β-actin-FOR	AGAGCTACGAGCTGCCTGAC
β-actin-REV	AGCACTGTGTTGGCGTACAG

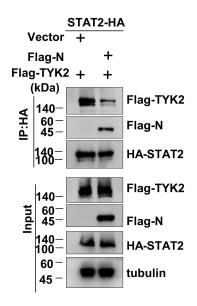
134 Table S1. The primers for qRT-PCR



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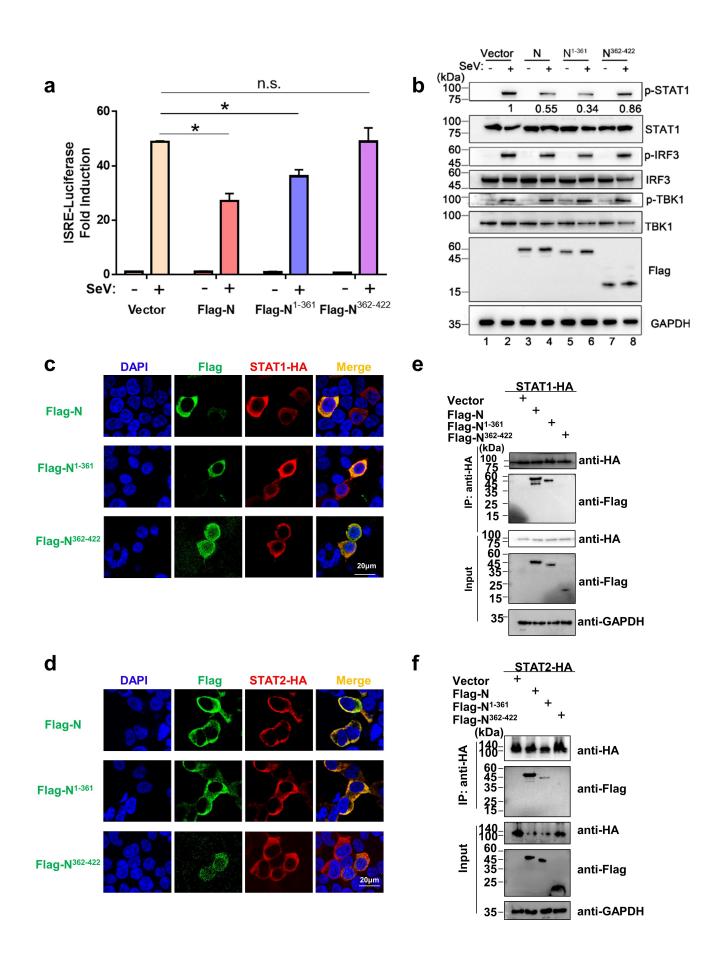






Supplementary Fig. S1 a-b 293T cells were co-transfected with plasmids with either empty vector or the plasmid encoding Flag-N (0.5µg each), as indicated. At 24 hpt, cells were then infected with or without SeV, Total RNAs were extracted at 12 hpi. The mRNA levels of ISG54 and ISG15 were measured by real-time RT-PCR analysis, and normalized to the cellular β-actin mRNA. Student's t-test was used for estimation of statistical significance. *, P < 0.05 and **, P < 0.01. Data were from three independent experiments. Mean values and standard deviations from three independent experiments per group. c we constructed 293T cell lines stably expressing Flag tagged SARS-CoV-2 N protein. Cells were seeded on 6-well plate and then infected with or without SeV for 12 h, The STAT1 and STAT2 protein levels and their phosphorylation levels were detected by Western blot. The concentration of total protein was quantified using the BCA method. GAPDH serves as the loading control. d-e 293T cells were transfected with plasmids encoding STAT1-HA and Flag-JAK1 (d), or plasmid encoding STAT2-HA and FLAG-TYK2 (e), together with either empty vector or the plasmid encoding Flag-N. At 48 hpt, the cells were harvested and subjected to a Co-IP assay using anti-HA. The immunoprecipitated proteins and the inputs were separated by SDS-PAGE and probed with anti-HA and anti-Flag.

Supplementary Fig. S2



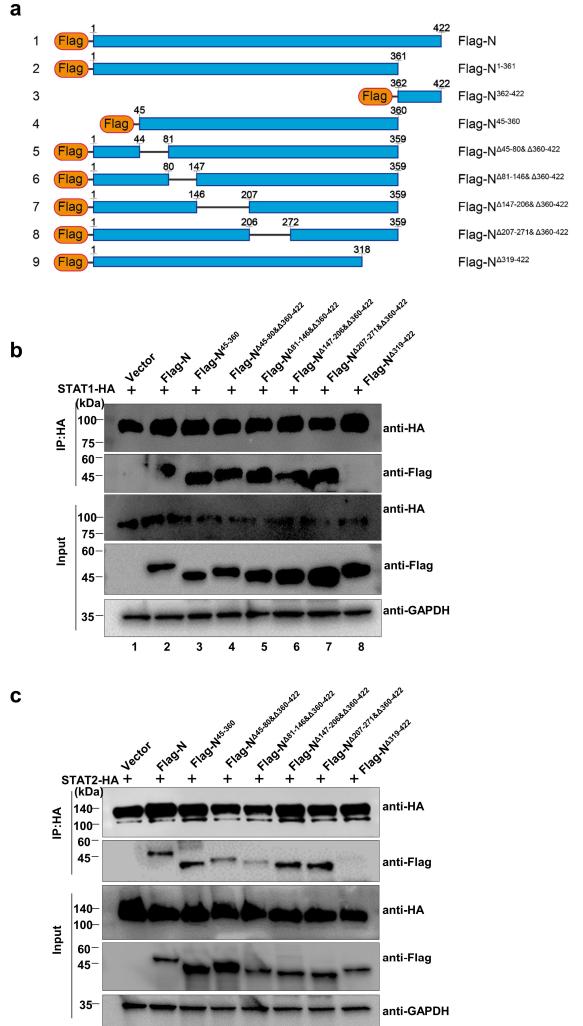
Supplementary Fig. S2 The N-terminal domain of SARS-CoV-2 N protein is sufficient for antagonizing IFN signaling. a 293T cells were co-transfected with plasmids with ISRE-Luc and pRL-TK, together with either empty vector or the plasmid encoding Flag-N, Flag-N¹⁻ ³⁶¹, Flag-N³⁶²⁻⁴²² (0.5µg each), as indicated. At 24 hpt, cells were then infected with or without SeV, at 12 hpi, the reporter activity was detected by dual luciferase reporter system. Student's t-test was used for estimation of statistical significance. n.s., there was no significant difference, *, P < 0.05. Data are from three independent experiments. Mean values and standard deviations from three independent experiments per group. **b** 293T cells were transfected with either empty vector or the plasmid encoding Flag-N, Flag-N¹⁻³⁶¹, Flag-N³⁶²⁻⁴²² (0.5µg each), as indicated. At 24 hpt, cells were then infected with or without SeV. At 12 hpi, Cell lysates were harvested and analyzed by western blotting with antibodies as indicated. The densities of blots were analyzed by using ImageJ software. c-d 293T cells were transfected with plasmids Flag-N, Flag-N¹⁻³⁶¹, or Flag-N³⁶²⁻⁴²², together with the plasmid encoding STAT1-HA (c) or the plasmid encoding STAT2-HA (d). At 24 hpt, the cells were fixed and subjected to immunofluorescence staining assays. Scale bar, 20µm. e-f 293T cells were transfected with plasmids encoding STAT1-HA (e), or plasmid encoding STAT2-HA (f), together with either empty vector or the plasmid encoding Flag-N, Flag-N¹⁻³⁶¹, or Flag-N³⁶²⁻⁴²², At 48 hpt, the cells were harvested and subjected to a Co-IP assay using anti-HA. The immunoprecipitated proteins and the inputs were separated by SDS-PAGE and probed with anti-HA and anti-Flag.

Supplement	ary Fig.	S3					
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Supplementary Fig. S3 The amino acid sequence alignment of coronavirus N proteins

was performed using Clustal Omega.

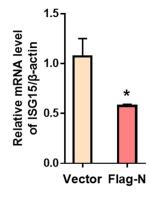
Supplementary Fig. S4



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Supplementary Fig. S4 C-terminal 319-422 amino acids of SARS-CoV-2 N protein is indispensable for its binding to STAT1 and STAT2 **a** Schematic diagram of N protein and N truncations. **b-c** 293T cells were transfected with plasmids empty vector, Flag-N, Flag-N⁴⁵⁻³⁶⁰, Flag-N^{Δ 45-80& Δ 360-422}, Flag-N^{Δ 81-146& Δ 360-422</sub>, Flag-N^{Δ 147-206& Δ 360-422}, Flag-N^{Δ 207-271& Δ 360-422, or Flag-N³¹⁹⁻⁴²², together with the plasmid encoding STAT1-HA (b) or the plasmid encoding STAT2-HA (c). At 48 hpt, the cells were harvested and subjected to a Co-IP assay using anti-HA. The immunoprecipitated proteins and the inputs were separated by SDS-PAGE and probed with anti-HA and anti-Flag.}}





Supplementary Fig. S5 Huh7 cells were transfected with either empty vector or the plasmid encoding Flag-N. At 24 hpt, cells were infected with SARS-CoV-2 at a MOI of 0.1. At 24 hpi, total RNAs were extracted and the levels of ISG15 were measured by real-time RT-PCR analysis, normalized to the cellular β -actin mRNA. Mean values and standard deviations from three independent experiments are shown. Student's t-test was used for estimation of statistical significance. *, P < 0.05.