

26 **Supplementary Materials and Methods**

27 **Cell culture and transfection**

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

35

36 **Plasmids construction**

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

40

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

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

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**

53 SeV was kindly provided by Dr. Xinwen Chen. All virus was amplified and titrated by
54 standard plaque or focus-forming assays². Cells were infected with SeV (50
55 hemagglutination units per ml). SARS-CoV-2 was kindly provided by Dr. Zhengli Shi.
56 HepG2 cells were infected with SARS-CoV-2 at a multiplicities of infection (MOI) of
57 0.1 and harvested at 24 hours post infection.

58

59 **Luciferase assay**

60 Luciferase assay was performed as previously described³. The dual-Luciferase Reporter
61 Assay System (Promega) was used for luciferase assays. Briefly, cells were seeded in
62 24-well plates and transfected luciferase reporter and pRL-TK plasmids combined with
63 a total of 500 ng of target plasmid or empty control plasmid for 24 hrs. Subsequently,
64 cells were stimulated with IFN α 2 α (50 ng/mL), IFN- β (50 ng/mL), or left untreated
65 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.

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

77

78 **Western blotting**

79 The Western blotting were performed as described previously⁵. Cells were washed
80 twice in cold phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and lysed in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-
81 HCl [pH 7.4], 150 mM NaCl, 1% NP40, 0.25% deoxycholate, and a protease inhibitor
82 cocktail ⁶), and the lysates were subjected to SDS-PAGE on 12% gels by western
83 blotting according to standard procedures with the relevant antibodies. Rabbit anti-
84 GAPDH, HA, STAT1, phospho-STAT1 (Tyr701), STAT2, phospho-STAT2 (Tyr690),
85 antibodies were all purchased from Cell Signaling Technology. Mouse anti-Flag were
86 from Sigma-Aldrich.

87

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

89 Co-IP was performed as previously described⁷. Cells were rinsed with ice-cold PBS
90 and lysed with RIPA buffer (50 mM Tris, pH7.5, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 150
91 mM NaCl, 2 mM DTT) and a protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche). The cell lysates were
92 centrifuged at 12000 \times g at 4 °C for 10 min and the supernatants were incubated with
93 anti-HA together with protein-A/G agarose beads (Roche) at 4 °C overnight according

94 to the manufacturer's protocol. The immunoprecipitated samples were centrifuged and
95 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**

105 The immunofluorescence assays were performed as described previously⁸. Briefly, the
106 cells were fixed with 3.7% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 30 min, permeabilized with
107 0.5% Triton X-100 and blocked in 1% normal goat serum (Boster) in PBS for 30 min
108 on ice. The cells were incubated with anti-HA (1:500 dilution, Invitrogen) or anti-Flag
109 (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**

- 113 1 Mu, J. *et al.* SARS-CoV-2-encoded nucleocapsid protein acts as a viral suppressor of RNA
114 interference in cells. *Sci China Life Sci*, 1-4,(2020).
- 115 2 Yang, Q. *et al.* Host HDAC4 regulates the antiviral response by inhibiting the
116 phosphorylation of IRF3. *J Mol Cell Biol* **11**, 158-169,(2019).
- 117 3 Yang, Q. *et al.* Tick-borne encephalitis virus NS4A ubiquitination antagonizes type I
118 interferon-stimulated STAT1/2 signalling pathway. *Emerg Microbes Infect* **9**, 714-
119 726,(2020).
- 120 4 Li, Y. *et al.* Mechanisms and Effects on HBV Replication of the Interaction between HBV
121 Core Protein and Cellular Filamin B. *Virology* **33**, 162-172,(2018).
- 122 5 Miao, M. *et al.* Proteomics Profiling of Host Cell Response via Protein Expression and

123 Phosphorylation upon Dengue Virus Infection. *Virologica Sinica* **34**, 549-562,(2019).
124 6 Hadjadj, J. *et al.* Impaired type I interferon activity and exacerbated inflammatory
125 responses in severe Covid-19 patients. *medRxiv*, 2020.2004.2019.20068015,(2020).
126 7 Lu, B. *et al.* Induction of INK1 by Viral Infection Negatively Regulates Antiviral Responses
127 through Inhibiting Phosphorylation of p65 and IRF3. *Cell Host Microbe* **22**, 86-98
128 e84,(2017).
129 8 Mu, J. *et al.* Autographa californica Multiple Nucleopolyhedrovirus Ac34 Protein Retains
130 Cellular Actin-Related Protein 2/3 Complex in the Nucleus by Subversion of CRM1-
131 Dependent Nuclear Export. *Plos Pathog* **12**, e1005994-e1005994,(2016).

132

133

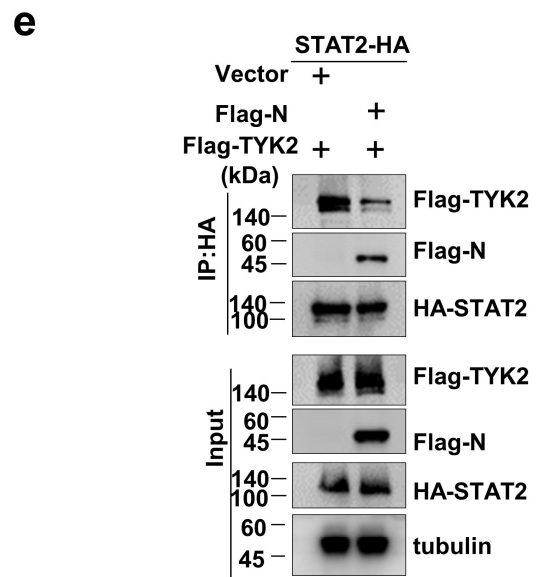
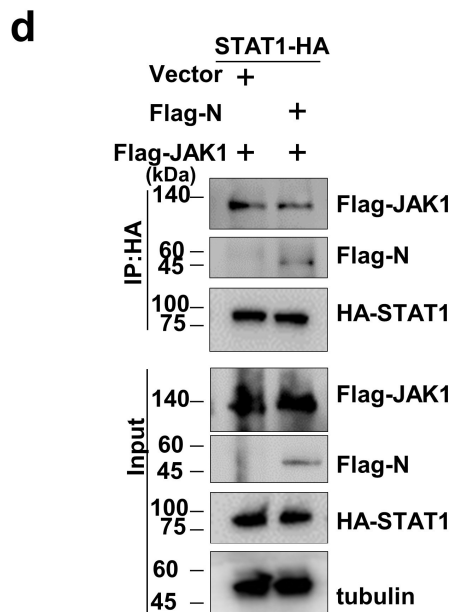
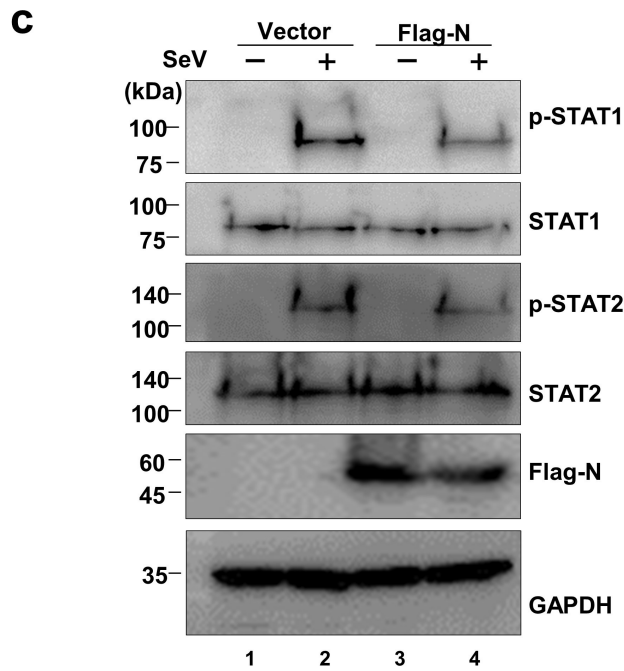
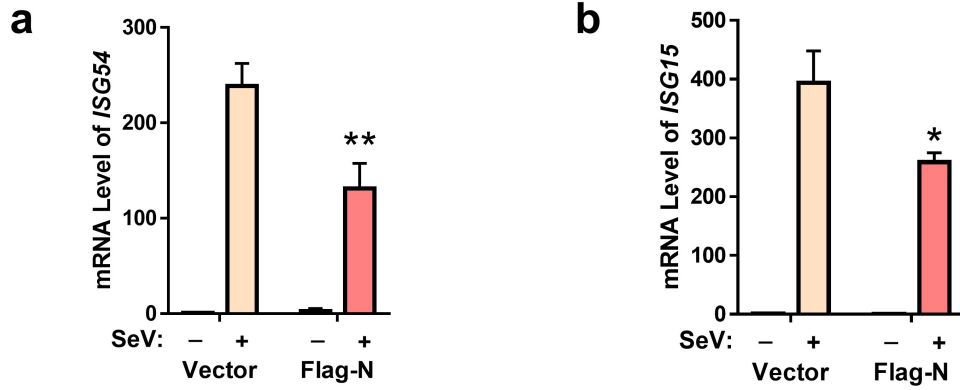
134 **Table S1. The primers for qRT-PCR**

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

135

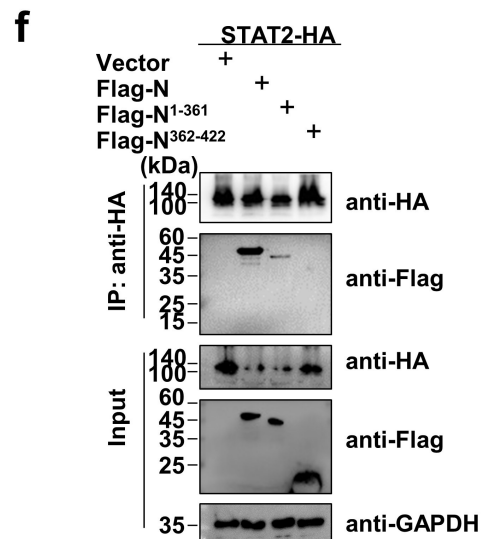
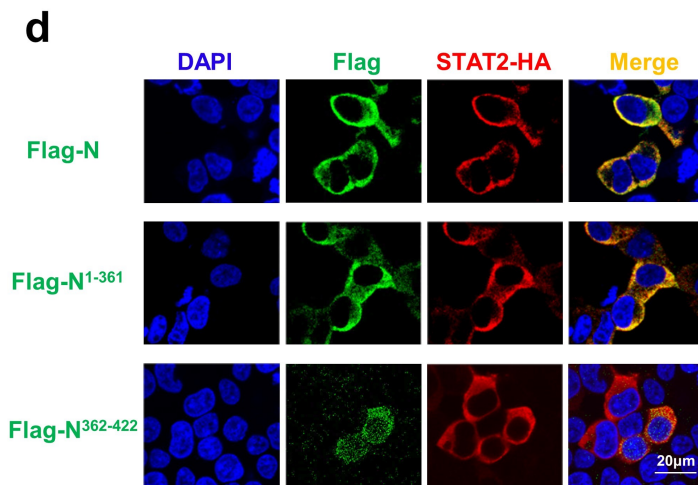
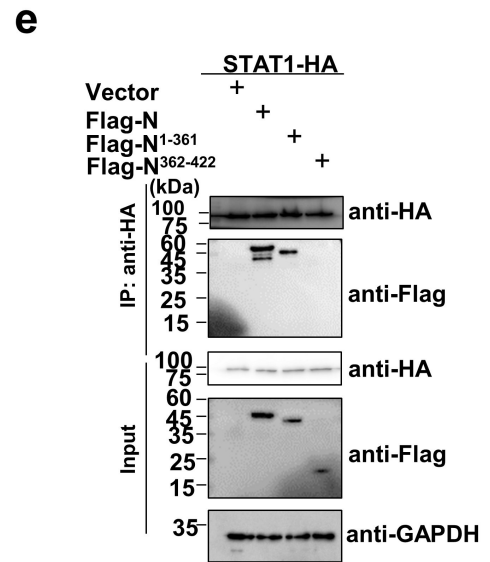
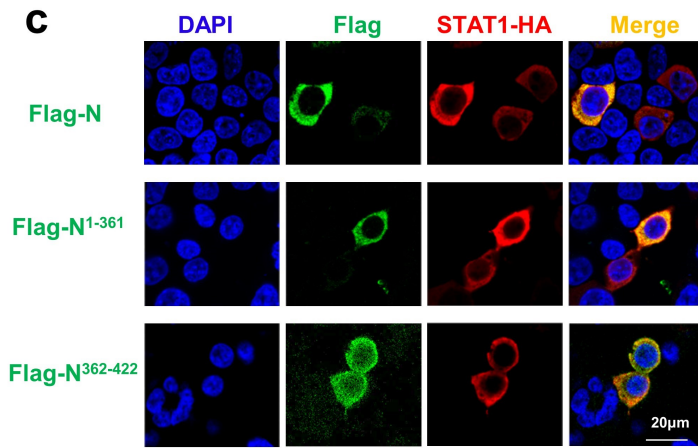
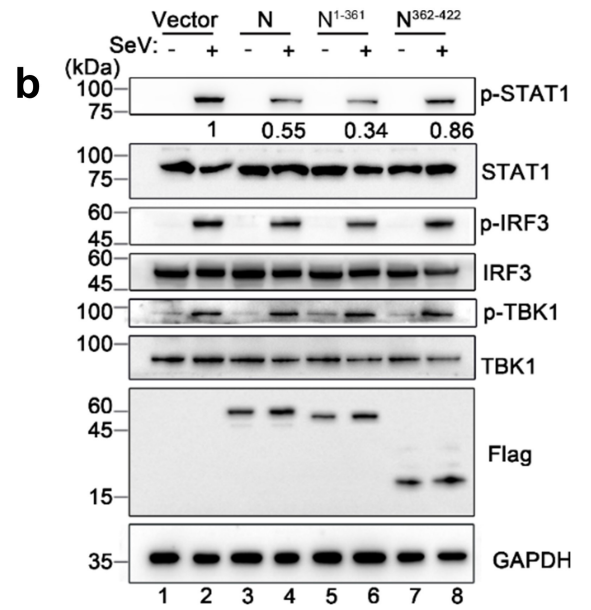
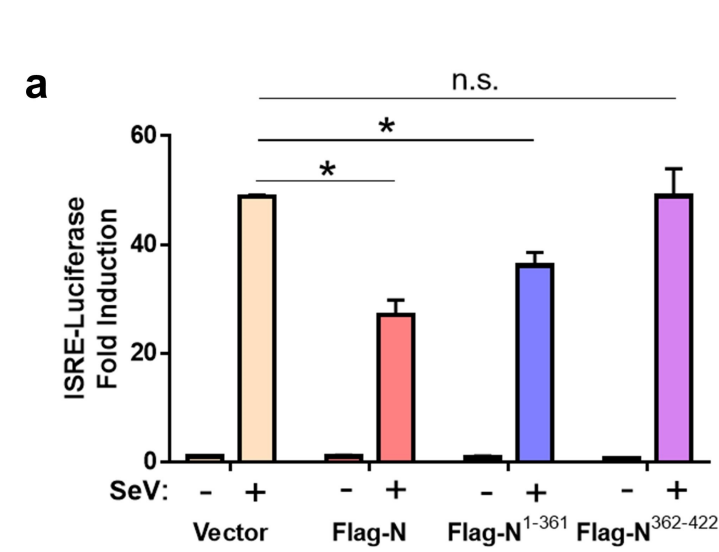
136

Supplementary Fig. S1



Supplementary Fig. S1 a-b 293T cells were co-transfected with plasmids with either empty vector or the plasmid encoding Flag-N (0.5 μ g 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.

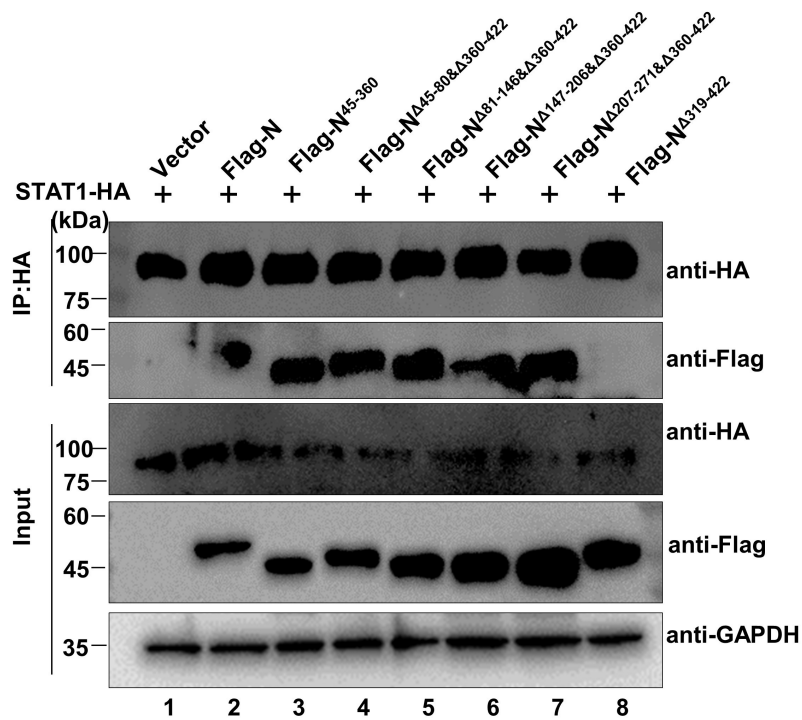
Supplementary Fig. S3 The amino acid sequence alignment of coronavirus N proteins was performed using Clustal Omega.

Supplementary Fig. S4

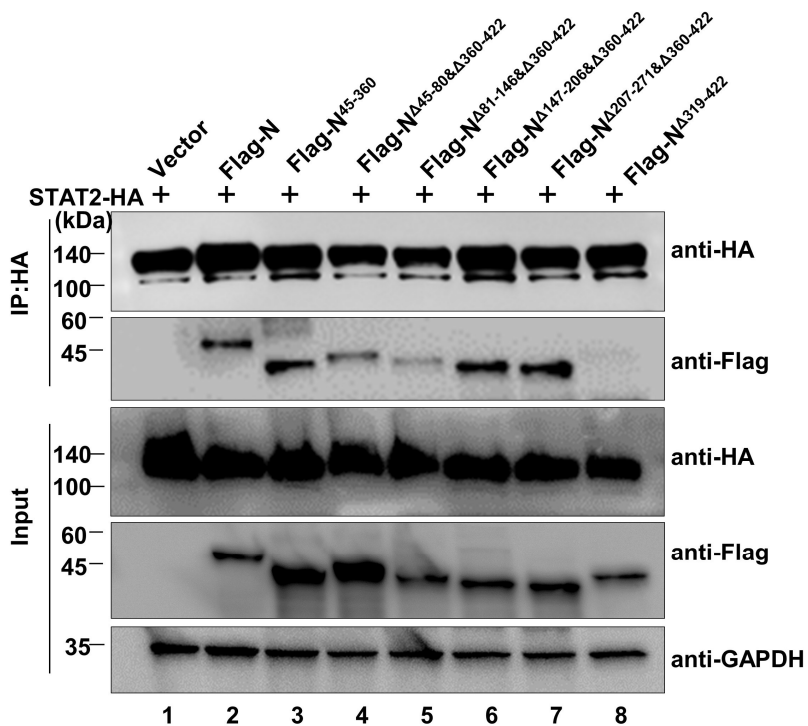
a



b

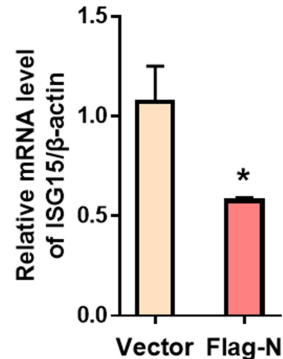


c



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^{Δ45-80& Δ360-422}, Flag-N^{Δ81-146& Δ360-422}, Flag-N^{Δ147-206& Δ360-422}, Flag-N^{Δ207-271& Δ360-422}, 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



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. *, $P < 0.05$.