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## Bill Gates says life will return to normal only after SECOND generation of Covid vaccines rolled out and virus eliminated globally

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Technology tycoon Bill Gates said life can get back to normal only when a second generation of Covid-19 vaccines is widely available and the virus is eradicated worldwide – a higher bar than was set for any disease in history.

*"The only way we'll get completely back to normal is by having, maybe not the first generation of vaccines, but eventually a vaccine that is super-effective, and that a lot of the people take, and that we get the disease eliminated on a global basis,"* Gates said Sunday in an interview on NBC's Meet the Press program. *"That is where we can finally start taking all the problems that have been created -- in education, mental health -- and start to build back in a positive way."*

According to that standard, Americans might need to live for years, or for life, under social-distancing guidelines and other Covid-19 restrictions. It's certainly gloomier than the assessment Gates gave in a Fox interview last month, when he said progress on vaccines might make it possible for a return to normalcy in the US by the summer of 2021. He said he expects several of the first generation of vaccines to get emergency

approval by early next year.

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Gates blasted the US Covid-19 response as one of the worst in the world, except for the Trump administration's aggressive investments in vaccine development. *"There are lots of additional deaths coming if we don't get our act together,"* the billionaire philanthropist told NBC host Chuck Todd.

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Gates cited the fact that test results often don't come back within 24 hours, a problem that could be alleviated by not reimbursing *"for these worthless things."* He said the US Covid-19 testing system is the worst of any country *"in terms of who gets access to it."* *"You do have to admit that you haven't done a good job and make some straightforward changes,"* he added.

That message won't likely resonate with President Donald Trump, who has hailed his administration's Covid-19 response as ["phenomenal"](#) and it saved potentially millions of lives, although 215,000 Americans have reportedly died from the virus. Trump himself tested positive for Covid-19 on Oct. 1 and said he was [cured](#) by an experimental monoclonal-antibody treatment.

Gates said it's wrong to call the treatment a "*cure*" because it won't work for every patient, but he sees it as the most promising Covid-19 therapeutic developed so far. His foundation reserved factory capacity last spring and has partnered with drug-maker Eli Lilly & Co. in hopes of getting a monoclonal-antibody drug approved by the FDA with supplies ramped up in the next few months.

*"Adding this to the tools would be a great thing,"* Gates said.

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