

THE VACCINE RACE, EXPLAINED

What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccine

Humankind has never had a more urgent task than creating broad immunity for coronavirus.

By **Bill Gates** | April 30, 2020 • 10 minute read



One of the questions I get asked the most these days is when the world will be able to go back to the way things were in December before the coronavirus pandemic. My answer is always the same: when we have an almost perfect drug to treat COVID-19, or when almost every person on the planet has been vaccinated against coronavirus.

The former is unlikely to happen anytime soon. We'd need a miracle treatment that was at least 95 percent effective to stop the outbreak. Most of the **drug candidates** right now are nowhere near that powerful. They could save a lot of lives, but they aren't enough to get us back to normal.