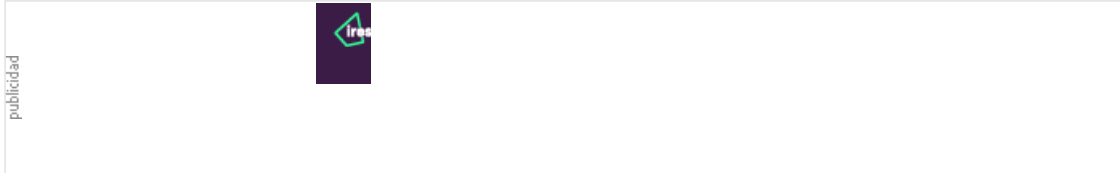


News



CORONAVIRUS

Bill Gates predicts when the next pandemic will arrive



Covid-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer and BioNTech are awaiting FDA approval but the tech billionaire warns that another virus is inevitable.



Will Gittins

24/11/2020 16:09

Microsoft founder Bill Gates has revealed on his podcast, [Bill Gates and Rashida Jones Ask Big Questions](#), his thoughts on **the future of global pandemics**. In a far-reaching

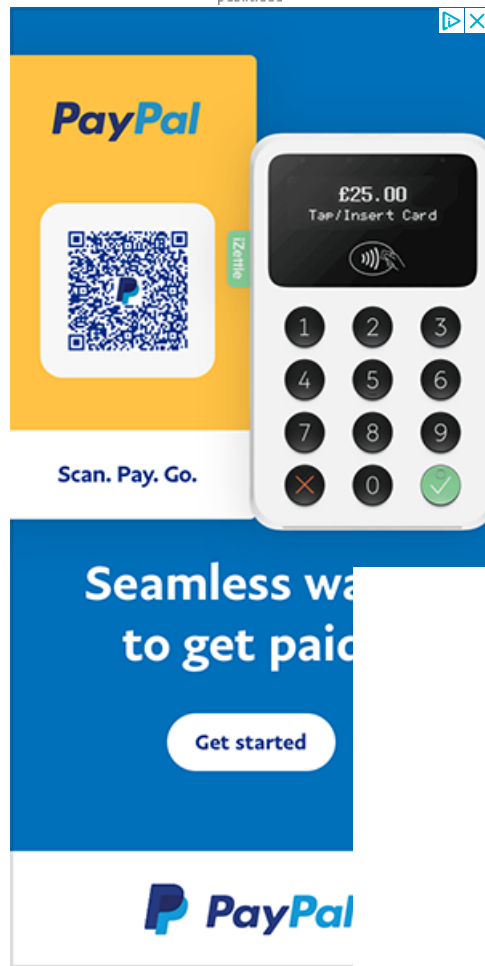
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Gates had previously warned about the prospect of a worldwide pandemic and believes that another one is **almost inevitable** in an increasingly globalised world. When asked about it, he said:

"Hopefully it could be 20 years from now", before adding, "but **we must assume it could be 3 years from now...** There is a reasonable probability that the world will face something like this in the next 10 or 15 years," he added.



Bill Gates ✓
@BillGates



In our first podcast episode, Rashida Jones and I talked to Dr. Anthony Fauci about what to expect in the coming months and what the world will look like after COVID-19.

What will the world look like after COVID-19?

The first episode of Bill Gates and Rashida Jones Ask Big Questions is all about the pandemic.

gatesnotes.com

6:38 PM · Nov 16, 2020



5.8K



See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

Gates gives his thoughts on post-covid world

The medical breakthroughs in recent weeks have given hope that an end to the coronavirus pandemic is possible, with a number of pharmaceutical companies having recorded [successful vaccination trials](#). But according to Gates the elimination of the virus would not lead to a return to pre-covid life.

He points to the growth of the 'home office' as employees and employers have been forced to adapt to social distancing restrictions. Technologies like video conferencing make remote working more viable than ever before and Gates told The New York Times' [DealBook conference](#) that working practices have been changed for good.

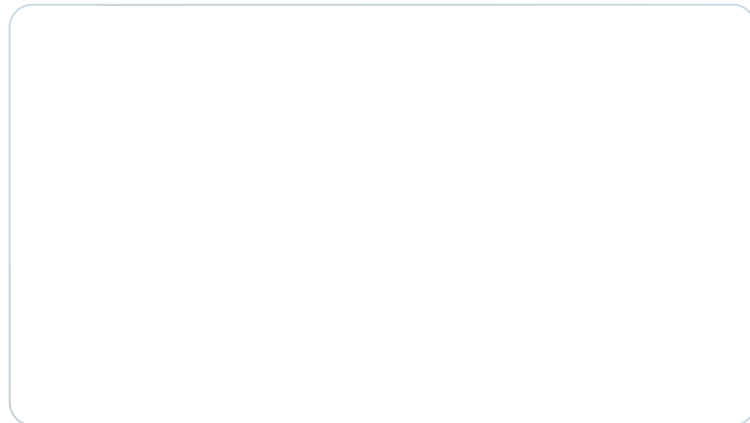


The New York Times  @nytimes · Nov 17, 2020



Replying to @nytimes

"I wouldn't have expected mask wearing to become controversial," Bill Gates said at @dealbook's online summit. "I wouldn't have expected the administration to find sort of the wildest fringe opinion possible." nyti.ms/2UCaA32



The New York Times 

@nytimes

"My prediction would be that over 50% of business travel and over 30% of days in the office will go away," Bill Gates said on the lasting effects the coronavirus pandemic will have on the workplace. nyti.ms/2UCaA32



8:22 PM · Nov 17, 2020



501



See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

He predicts that **business travel will fall by over 50%** in the post-covid world with time in offices expected to be **reduced by at least 30%**. "We will continue to go to the office and we will continue to do business trips, but much less," he said. Already, Microsoft have announced a permanent change to their working practices that allows employees to **work from home for at least half of their working hours**.

Pandemic predictions are nothing new for Gates

While the 2020 coronavirus outbreak seemed to take world leaders by surprise, Gates has been talking about the threat of a global pandemic for years. In a [2015 TED Talk](#) Gates warned that the US and other countries were not prepared for a pandemic:

"If anything kills over 10 million people in the next few decades, it's most likely to be a highly infectious virus rather than a war," he said. **"Not missiles, but microbes."**

More recently, in 2018 the billionaire philanthropist told an audience at an epidemic discussion hosted by the Massachusetts Medical Society that a pandemic **could wipe out tens of millions** if not combatted effectively. He cited a simulation carried out by the Institute for Disease Modelling that suggested that a modern version of the 1918 flu pandemic would now kill around **30 million people** in just six months.

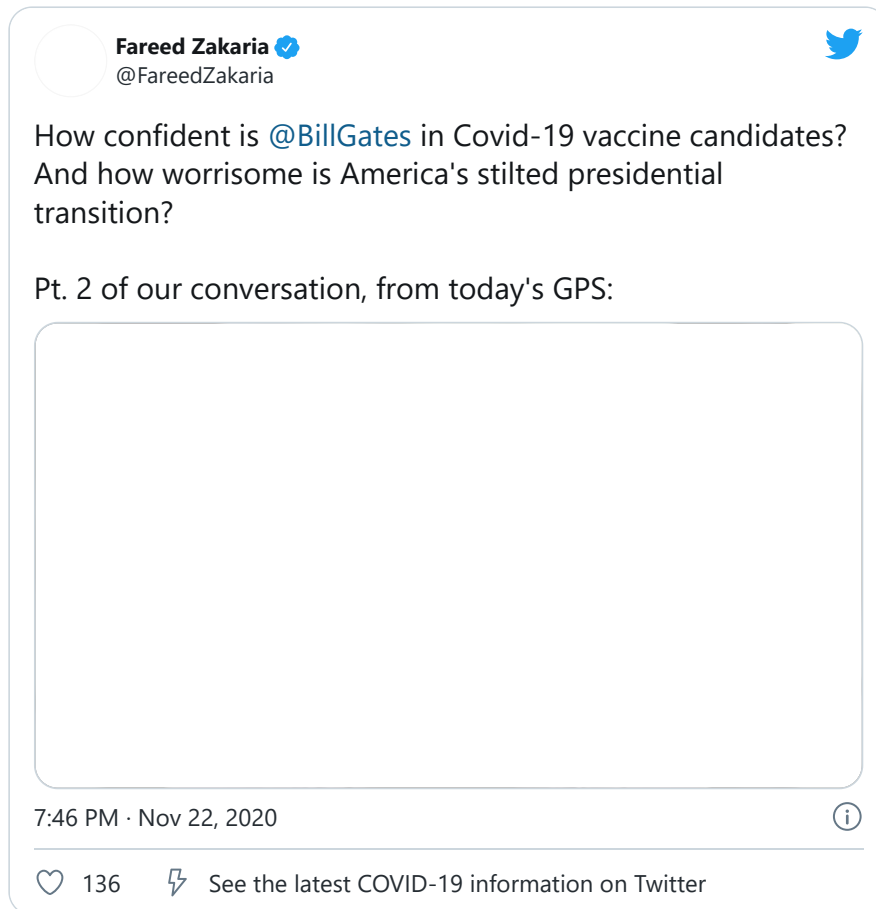
Simulation: Global Flu Pandemic



"We won't be so stupid the second time!"



his podcast he suggested that the next disease would be "less destructive" because we "will have practised" our response to it.



He added that nations would have had the chance to run "sickness games, like war games, and **almost every country will respond as South Korea or Australia did**, where they are quickly testing and quarantining people".

"Our testing tools will be much better. **We won't be so stupid the second time**", he added.

What travel recommendations have the CDC established for Thanksgiving?

Second stimulus check: 20 January could be a key date for a new round of payments

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