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**OUR 2021 ANNUAL LETTER****The year global health went local**

The world has an important opportunity to turn the hard-won lessons healthier, more equal future for all.

By **Bill and Melinda Gates** | January 27, 2021 • 19 minute read



**We are writing this letter after a year unlike any other in our lifetime.**

Two decades ago, we created a foundation focused on global health to maximize the returns from Microsoft to improve as many lives as possible. Health is a thriving society. If your health is compromised—or if you're worried about a disease—it's hard to concentrate on anything else. Staying alive and healthy is a priority to the necessary detriment of everything else.

Over the last year, many of us have experienced that reality ourselves. Almost every decision now comes with a new calculus: How do you balance the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19? There are probably some epidemiologists