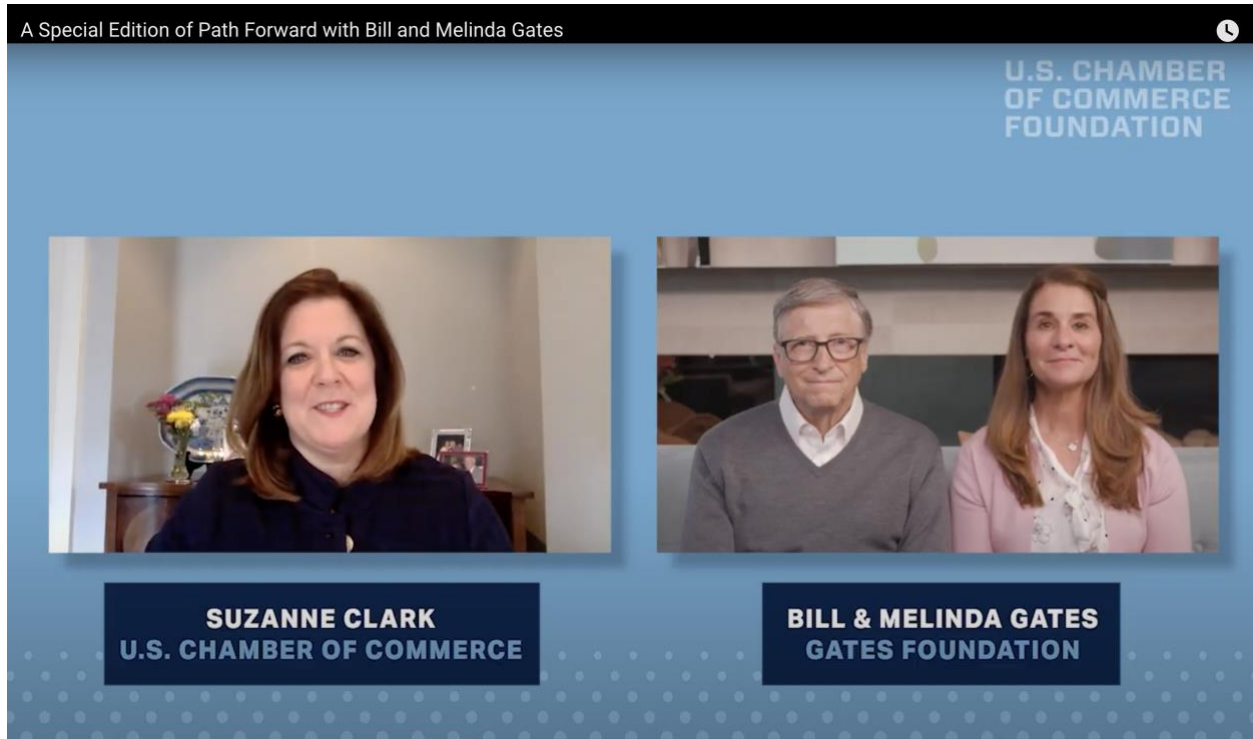


# Bill and Melinda Gates Talk about COVID-19 Vaccines and Preparing for Future Pandemics



This special edition of *Path Forward* explores the work the Gates Foundation has been doing to fight COVID-19. U.S. Chamber President Suzanne Clark discussed with Bill and Melinda Gates the importance of a coordinated international response to the pandemic, the lasting changes we might see coming out of the crisis, and how to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 treatment and vaccines.

The Gates Foundation is investing in vaccine development, and Melinda Gates is optimistic about a vaccine being produced soon. “There are three that are looking quite promising, and we all believe that by 2021 we will have a vaccine,” she said.

Equitable access to the vaccine is important. “Make sure your most vulnerable populations get it,” said Melinda Gates. “In our country this would mean Blacks and Native Americans, people with underlying health conditions, and the elderly.”

Looking ahead, Bill Gates wants the world to be better prepared for future pandemics. “We have to prepare for the next one,” he said. “We’ll have to invest to make sure we catch the disease sooner, and that we have platforms to make diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines very quickly.”

Watch the conversation [here](#).