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Bill Gates says vaccine formulas will be shared with global poor to end pandemic

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Health advocates blast Microsoft billionaire for saying patent protections on life-saving vaccines must remain

By **JON QUEALLY** PUBLISHED APRIL 26, 2021 5:40AM (EDT)



Bill Gates (Getty/Jack Taylor)

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Bill Gates, one of the world's richest men and most powerful philanthropists, was the target of

criticism from social
COVID-19 vaccine te
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bad idea.



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Directly asked during

vaccine recipes be shared, Gates quickly answered: "No."

Asked to explain why not, Gates — whose massive fortune as founder of Microsoft **relies largely on intellectual property laws** that turned his software innovations into tens of billions of dollars in personal wealth — said: "Well, there's only so many vaccine factories in the world and people are very serious about the safety of vaccines. And so moving something that had never been done — moving a vaccine, say, from a [Johnson & Johnson] factory into a factory in India — it's novel — it's only because of our grants and expertise that that can happen at all."

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The reference is to the Serum factory in India, the largest such institute in the country, which has contracts with AstraZeneca to manufacture their COVID-19 vaccine, known internationally as Covishield.

The thing that's holding "things back" in terms of the global vaccine rollout, continued Gates, "is

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Tara Van Ho (Dr)
@TaraVanHo



Gates speaks as if all the lives being lost in India are inevitable but eventually the West will help when in reality the US & UK are holding their feet on the neck of developing states by refusing to break TRIPS protections. It's disgusting.

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"Who appointed this billionaire head of global health?" **asked** Dearden. "Oh yeah, he did."

Journalist Stephen Buryani, who on Saturday **wrote** an in-depth Guardian column on the urgent need for the patent waivers and technology sharing, offered a similarly negative view of the billionaire's "awful" arguments against sharing the vaccine technology.

Gates, charged Buryani, "acts like an optimist but has a truly dismal vision of the world."

During the Sky News interview, Gates **said** it was "not completely surprising" that the richest nations like U.S., U.K. and others in Europe vaccinated their populations first. He said that made sense because the pandemic was worse in those countries, but said he believed that "within three or four months the vaccine allocation will be getting to all the countries that have the very

severe epidemic."

Watch the full intervi



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JON QUEALLY

Jon Queally is managing editor for Common Dreams. Follow him on Twitter: @jonqueally

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