

Lessons Learned from a Pandemic
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A pandemic like Covid-19 brings us to a place where we can see things from a different perspective and come to deeper appreciations.



1. We really are a global community. Food consumed from a market place in one country can eventually cause repercussions across the world. Pathogens, in particular, do not respect national boundaries, politicians, social classes, ethnic groups, or ideologies. At a very basic level (biological survival), we're all in it together. This observation extends to climate change and other areas.
2. Money spent on emergency preparedness for public health and national disasters is well-spent. Like health insurance, you need it when you need it, and if you haven't prepared, it can be catastrophic.
3. In times of crisis, political leaders need to defer to the guidance of those who have expertise in the areas at stake. Their message should be one of supporting the professionals and encouraging citizens to act according to the counsel of experts. Their tone should be calm, and they should tell the truth rather than demagogue the situation.
4. These times bring out the best and the worst in people. Some will hoard, others will volunteer to work in health clinics.
5. Those on the front lines of health care and emergency response are truly heroes, deserving our gratitude and any support they need.