

## **Scientist leading the search for a coronavirus cure issues chilling warning that we may NEVER find a vaccine - and desperately need to come up with a Plan B**

A vaccine to protect against COVID-19, an Australian expert has warned Jane Halton explained there has never been a vaccine for other coronaviruses Even HIV, which has killed millions of people for decades, has no vaccine She said governments will need to develop a 'plan B' for fighting the disease

A desperately-needed [COVID-19](#) vaccine may never come to light, according to the Australian scientist heading up the global search. Health officials urgently need a 'plan B' to end the global pandemic, Jane Halton, the country's foremost epidemic health expert warned. [**Jane Halton** is the former head of the Australian Department of **Health** and the chair of the Coalition for **Epidemic** Preparedness Innovation (CEPI)].

Scientists all over the world are scrambling to develop a vaccine, with hopes it would be available early next year - a timeline Ms. Halton called 'unbelievable'. She warned against creating 'unrealistic expectations', explaining that there has never been a successful vaccine against other coronaviruses. Despite a global HIV death toll of 32 million people over 40 years, it also has no vaccine. This includes 770,000 deaths in 2008 alone.

The sobering claims by Ms. Halton will dampen hopes that human trials of a vaccine in America would be successful.

'If you said we pulled out all the stops and a vaccine was approved and deemed efficacious by the middle of next year, that would be unbelievably quick ... we would be ecstatically overjoyed, delighted,' she told The Australian.

'But I do think it is important not to create unrealistic expectations. No one has ever successfully developed a coronavirus vaccine, and we still don't have a vaccine against HIV.

'I would never say never. But this is my point about an 18-month timeline: it is heroic, really tough.'

There have also been human vaccine studies in China and Israel.

But Ms. Halton said that a 'plan B' was needed because 'nothing is certain' in science.