



Dear Friends,

Day in and day out we worry about our health and the health of our family and friends. We grow concerned when we hear about the spread of a virus or the contamination of food. Given how easily these problems can cross national borders, it is absolutely critical that all nations work together to counter public health threats. [The World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) - a United Nations agency which serves as the main global coordinating authority on public health issues - is a leader in international efforts to keep us safe and healthy.



Saturday marks World Health Day, a commemoration of the founding of the WHO in 1948, and we wanted to take this opportunity to showcase how the WHO is working to support American interests. Along with containing global health pandemics and leading the worldwide fight against disease, WHO also strengthens food, vaccine and drug safety standards and leverages relationships with non-governmental organizations (NGOS) and the private sector - creating a unified front for the health of everyone.

Protecting American citizens from epidemic and pandemic diseases, such as H1N1, requires multilateral partnerships and expertise gained only through U.S. engagement in and financial support for the WHO. The overarching importance of such an organization transcends political or ideological differences between countries, because we can all agree on the necessity of tackling a disease outbreak before it impacts our own communities.

Our best chance for stopping the spread of disease is when we stand together as a global community, and that is exactly what America's engagement with the WHO allows us to do.

Celebrate World Health Day and [learn more about how the WHO and other UN agencies are keeping our planet healthy and safe.](#)

Sincerely,

Peter Yeo  
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