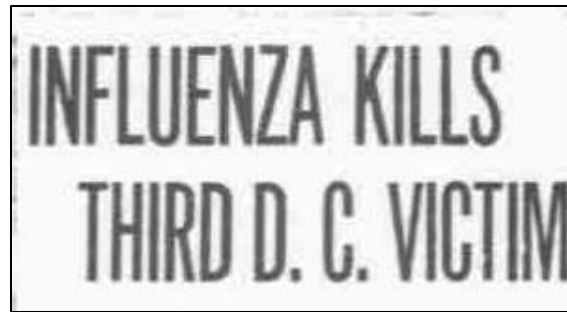


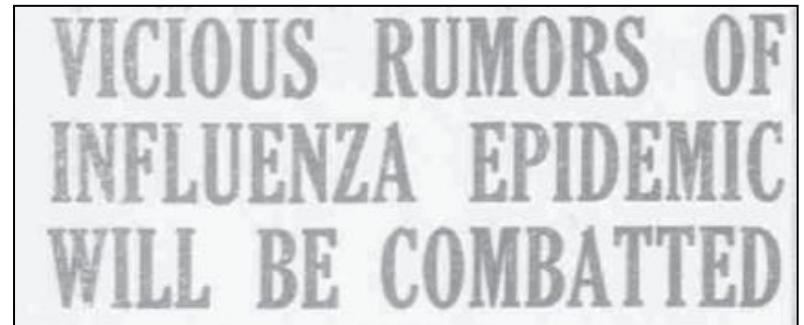
# Influenza in the News: Using Newspapers to Understand a Public Health Crisis

National Digital Newspaper  
Program Awardee Conference  
September 26, 2012

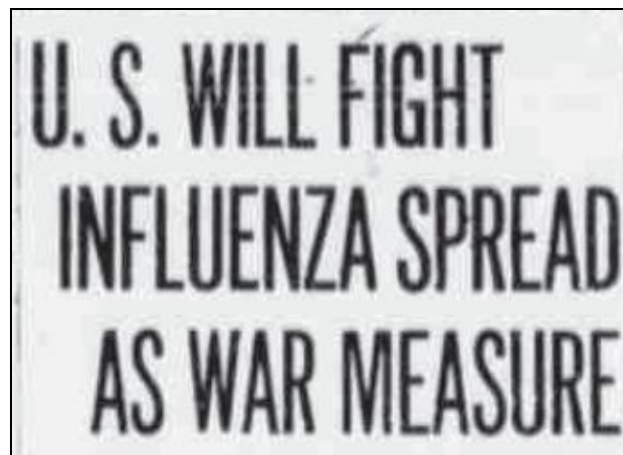
Tom Ewing  
Department of History  
Virginia Tech  
[etewing@vt.edu](mailto:etewing@vt.edu)



INFLUENZA KILLS  
THIRD D. C. VICTIM

A black and white photograph of a newspaper clipping. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font, arranged in two lines. The first line reads "INFLUENZA KILLS" and the second line reads "THIRD D. C. VICTIM".

VICIOUS RUMORS OF  
INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC  
WILL BE COMBATTED

A black and white photograph of a newspaper clipping. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines. The first line reads "VICIOUS RUMORS OF", the second line reads "INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC", and the third line reads "WILL BE COMBATTED".

U. S. WILL FIGHT  
INFLUENZA SPREAD  
AS WAR MEASURE

A black and white photograph of a newspaper clipping. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines. The first line reads "U. S. WILL FIGHT", the second line reads "INFLUENZA SPREAD", and the third line reads "AS WAR MEASURE".

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# In Great Balkan Drive





# INFLUENZA KILLS THIRD D. C. VICTIM

## INFLUENZA DON'TS.

- DON'T indulge in promiscuous coughing or sneezing.
- DON'T cough or sneeze in crowded places, if possible to prevent it. If you must do so, cover or smother your cough or sneeze.
- DON'T use common drinking glasses.
- DON'T use common towels.
- DON'T visit any person who is suffering from or who is suspected to be suffering from "Grippe."
- DON'T neglect a "cold," but seek proper medical advice.
- DON'T visit places of crowded assemblage.
- DON'T sleep in overcrowded or unventilated rooms.
- DON'T indulge in excesses of any kind.

Washington today is beginning to feel the effects of Spanish influenza to a marked degree. An additional death, the third in a week, was reported this morning to the Health Department. Six new cases were reported among the civilian population, and eighty-two cases were treated during the last twenty-four hours at the army dispensary, 1106 Connecticut avenue northwest.

The third death reported as a result of influenza in the District was that of Miss Agnes Howes, thirty-seven years old, of 1500 East Capitol street. She was stricken with the disease several days ago. The disease was followed by pneumonia, which resulted in death early this morning.

Army camps in the District report a total of 142 cases. There are twenty-six cases at Fort Myer. The disease is epidemic at Camp Meade, and the camp has been placed under quarantine. More than 1,000 cases are reported from the Marine training camp at Quantico, Va., and reports from cantonments all over the country show the presence of influenza.

The District of Columbia chapter  
(Continued on Page 2, Column 5.)

# INFLUENZA KILLS THIRD D. C. VICTIM

(Continued from First Page.)

Red Cross, is engaged in the manufacture of masks for the use of persons afflicted with influenza. The chapter has volunteered to supply a quantity of these masks for army use, and it is hoped to have 2,500 of the gauze protectors ready for delivery tomorrow.

The masks are to be worn by persons afflicted with influenza as well as by those attending patients suffering from respiratory diseases. It is not thought the use of masks will become general, and health officials are inclined to doubt their value for general use as a preventive measure.

Army camps throughout the country have reported 29,002 cases of influenza to date, with 2,313 cases of pneumonia.

Army cases within the District now total 131. No deaths have resulted in the camps here. The Marine Barracks reported eight cases yesterday, the first at the barracks.

Camp Meade today was ordered under general quarantine.

The order will be effective tomorrow. No officers or men are allowed to leave the camp, and no visitors will be received. More than 1,000 cases of influenza have been recorded there.

Reports of the Public Health Service show that the disease has spread to twenty-six States. Yesterday, for the first time, cases were reported from the States of Washington and California.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Sept. 26.—The 2,100 students of the Naval Academy were placed under strict quarantine last night as the result of the spread of Spanish influenza among them. About 100 suspected cases have been reported, and while none of the cases have reached the severe stage, every precaution is being taken.

The affected midshipmen are being sent to the sick bay as soon as symptoms of the disease are shown. There have been no cases of pneumonia reported thus far. It is thought the disease was brought to Annapolis by the students who recently returned from leave.

The Washington Times  
September 26, 1918, pp. 1,  
2

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# U. S. WILL FIGHT INFLUENZA SPREAD AS WAR MEASURE

Nursing Units Operating Under Government to Be Provided in Epidemic Areas.

## BACILLUS IS ISOLATED.

Rome Surgeon Announces He Has Found Germ, While Search Goes on Here.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—Stamping out of Spanish influenza, which has extended to more than a score of army camps and many sections of the country, has been recognized by the Government as a war measure. Medical and nursing units to-day were mobilized in communities where the epidemic has gained considerable headway, under the general direction of a central committee representing the Public Health Service, the army, the navy and the American Red Cross.

Home defense units will be organized with such nurses as may be spared from other duties, and each unit placed at the disposal of the central committee. Where land funds and buildings are not available, these will be obtained by the Red Cross, which also will open emergency hospitals.

ROME, Sept. 26.—Dr. Ciarini, director of the military hospital at Co-trone, announced to-day that he had discovered and isolated the bacillus of Spanish influenza.

The disease, which was brought in by repatriated prisoners, is raging throughout the country.

Dr. Royal W. Copeland, Health Commissioner of New York, said this morning that the Rome despatch was reassuring, and that he believed Dr. William H. Park of the Health Department has made the same discovery.

"Dr. Parks has been working in the laboratory of the Health Department trying to discover the bacillus," said Commissioner Copeland. "I believe he has succeeded, but he has been too modest to announce the result of his work."

"I am agreed with Dr. Parks that the influenza we find with us now is not entirely new in form but is just a special form of streptococcus not found in the old Pfeiffer bacilli, or influenza germ."

Dr. Parks, when seen this morning at the Board of Health Research Laboratory, stated that he was devoting all his time to an attempt to isolate the bacillus of the new disease, but that he had accomplished nothing as yet. His research showed, he declared, that the bacillus of the ordinary influenza was dominant in the disease.

Mr. Copeland said that Spanish influenza has not reached an epidemic stage in New York and that he has no intention of advising the closing of the schools.

One hundred and seventy-four new cases of Spanish influenza for the twenty-four hours ending at 10 A. M. to-day, as against 172 cases reported on the previous day, were announced by Health Commissioner Copeland.

The figures were given as follows: Hospital: 61 (22 men, 39 women); Dispensary: 41 (20 men, 21 women); Home: 14 (22 men, 20 women); Richmond: 11 (10 men, 1 woman); Queens: 5, all women, making a complete total of 140 men and 135 women.

The largest number of cases reported from any one district yesterday.

(Continued on Twelfth Page.)

INFLUENZA PREVENTATIVE.  
Take full of Jell-O medicine for influenza.

# U. S. WILL FIGHT INFLUENZA SPREAD AS WAR MEASURE

Nursing Units Operating Under Government to Be Provided in Epidemic Areas.

## BACILLUS IS ISOLATED.

Rome Surgeon Announces He Has Found Germ, While Search Goes on Here.

Evening World (NY)  
September 26, 1918, p. 1.

# TURKISH ARMY IS FACING ANNIHILATION

## VICIOUS RUMORS OF INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC WILL BE COMBATTED

Each of 45,000 Sailors at Great Lakes Naval Station Told to Write Home, Explaining to Anxious Relatives He Is Alive; Untruthful Reports Bring Flood of Letters; Outbreak Is Believed to Be in Hand.

Great Lakes, Mich., Sept. 25.—(AP)—The influenza epidemic at the Great Lakes Naval Station, Mich., is being combatted by the most effective means at the disposal of the command. Each of the 45,000 sailors at the station has been told to write home, explaining to anxious relatives that he is alive. Untruthful reports have brought a flood of letters, and the outbreak is believed to be in hand.

Gen. Burdy Praises Lieut. Welch in Order  
General Burdy, of the 1st Cavalry, has praised Lieut. Welch, of the 1st Cavalry, for his gallant conduct in the attack on the German lines at the battle of the Argonne. Lieut. Welch was killed in action on October 1, 1918.

German Gas No Longer Holds Earlier Terrors  
The German gas attacks of the last few months have been so effective that the German army has been able to hold its position in the Argonne. The German gas attacks have been so effective that the German army has been able to hold its position in the Argonne.

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## FRANCO-AMERICANS SMASH HUN FORCE ATTACK IN THE CHAMPAGNE SECTOR

TROOPS RUSHED TO JEROME TO STAY TROUBLE  
THREATENS HUN COMMUNICATION IN REAR OF HIS DEFENCE LINES  
Early Reports Indicate Assault in Champagne Sector Is Going Well; Attack May Extend From Reims to Verdun; Split of Fox Forces in West Is Possible; British Soldiers Continue Their Forward Pressure.

Paris, Sept. 25.—(AP)—The French army in the Champagne sector has smashed a Hun force attack in the Champagne sector. The French army has smashed a Hun force attack in the Champagne sector. The French army has smashed a Hun force attack in the Champagne sector.

German Gas No Longer Holds Earlier Terrors  
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## ALLIES, SURROUNDING FOURTH ARMY, LIKELY TO WIPE OUT FORCES

BRITISH EXTENDING OCCUPATION ABOUT ANCIENT SEA OF GALILEE  
Alley's Men, Pushing Eastward From Jordan, Occupy Strategic Town of Amman; Also Take Thibet and Senak; Allied Attack in Champagne On 40 Miles Front; Berlin Concedes Gains Made by British.

London, Sept. 25.—(AP)—The British army in the Middle East is likely to wipe out the forces of the Fourth Army. The British army is likely to wipe out the forces of the Fourth Army. The British army is likely to wipe out the forces of the Fourth Army.

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# VICIOUS RUMORS OF INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC WILL BE COMBATTED

**Each of 45,000 Sailors at Great Lakes Naval Station Told to Write Home, Explaining to Anxious Relatives He Is Alive; Untruthful Reports Bring Flood of Letters; Outbreak Is Believed to Be In Hand.**

**GREAT LAKES, IN., Sept. 25.**—Each of the 45,000 sailors at the naval training station here has been ordered to write home and explain to anxious relatives that he is still alive. Vicious rumors concerning the influenza epidemic have been spread broadcast through neighboring states and have brought a flood of telegrams and inquiries from "home folks," and the authorities have found it almost impossible to answer all of them.

In announcing that there has been 55 deaths from Spanish influenza yesterday, Capt. Wm. A. Moffatt, commandant, said that these fatalities were among cases with those taken to hospitals when the epidemic began and that new cases developing in the last few days show a lower death rate. Coupled with this decrease in virulence, there was reported today a diminution in spread of the disease. Physicians said the outbreak at this station had been brought under control.

## Still Raging in N. Y.

**New York, Sept. 26.**—The spread of Spanish influenza in this city shows no signs of abating. The health department received reports of 174 new cases during the last 24 hours against 272 reported yesterday.

## Quarantine Report Denied.

**Annapolis, Md., Sept. 25.**—Denying that the midshipmen at the naval academy have been placed under quarantine because of an outbreak of influenza at the institution, as had been reported, officials there said to-

day that there were 150 suspected cases in the academy hospital.

## 57 New Chicago Cases.

**Chicago, Ill., Sept. 25.**—One death from influenza, 57 new cases were reported to the city health department in the last 24 hours.

## Fight Is War Measure.

**Washington, D. C., Sept. 25.**—Stamping out of Spanish influenza, which has extended to more than a score of army camps and many sections of the country, has been recognized by the government as a war measure.

Medical and nursing units today were mobilized in communities where the epidemic has gained considerable headway, under the general direction of a central committee, representing the public health service, the army, the navy and the American Red Cross.

## Plan Immediate Relief.

Immediate relief for localities where influenza has gone beyond control of the local authorities, will be the main task of the committee organized yesterday, after word was received that the east, and particularly Massachusetts conditions were serious.

It was explained that the principal relief will be afforded by units at home.

There was no reports early today from army camps, although it was said that an overnight increase of cases was to be expected.

## Influenza Closes Ship Yard.

**Houston, Tex., Sept. 25.**—Local ship yards today were closed to visitors on account of the prevalence of Spanish influenza in this locality. Four deaths from pneumonia are reported from Camp Logan.

*El Paso Herald*  
September 26, 1918, p. 1

## Still Raging in N. Y.

**New York, Sept. 26.**—The spread of Spanish influenza in this city shows no signs of abating. The health department received reports of 174 new cases during the last 24 hours against 272 reported yesterday.

# Influenza Pandemic in 1918

## ➤ Timeline

- Spring / Summer 1918
- Fall 1918 (mid September to early November)
- Winter 1919

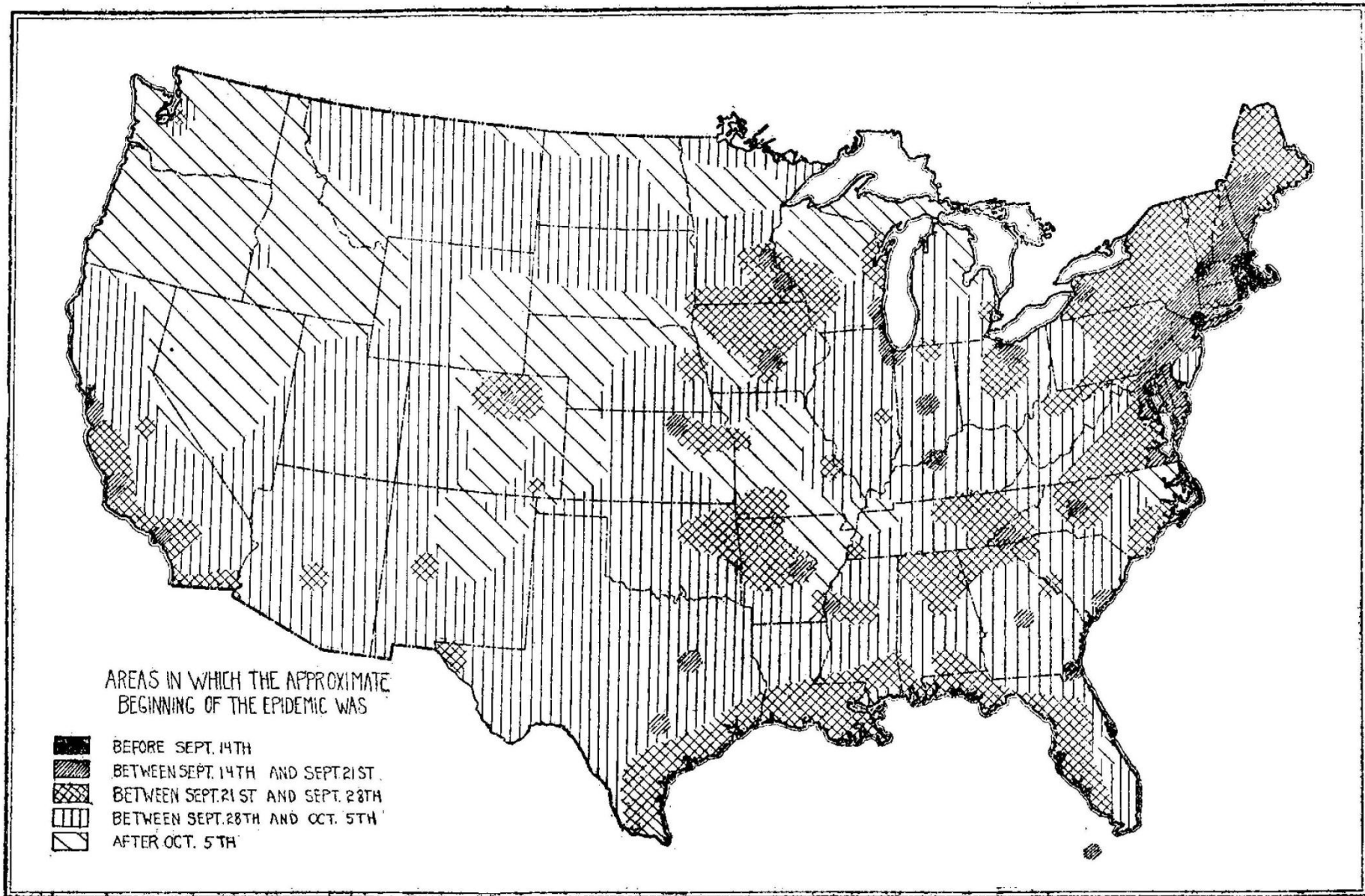
## ➤ Victims

- 675,000 dead in the US
- 25% of population infected
- 50 million dead in the world
- Highest mortality among 20-40 age group



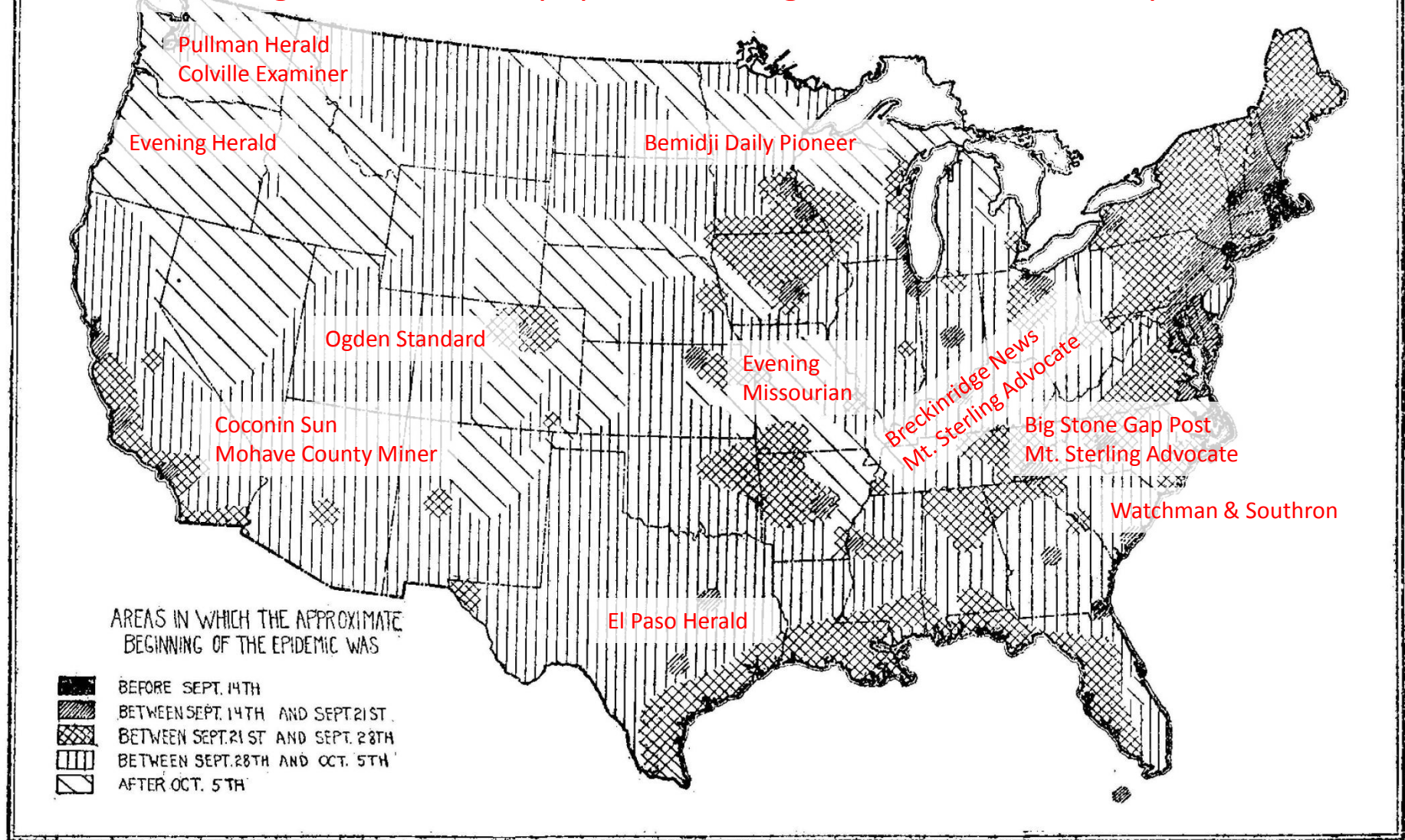
New Methods for Using *Chronicling America*  
to Understand the 1918 Influenza:  
*An Epidemiology of Information*,  
a Digging into Data Challenge Project

- Geography of influenza
- Covering the flu
- Text clouds
- Timelines
- Network analysis
- Tone detection



Chronological map of the influenza epidemic of 1918. Based on preliminary reports from 376 localities. Indicating the approximate dates on which the disease reached an epidemic stage.

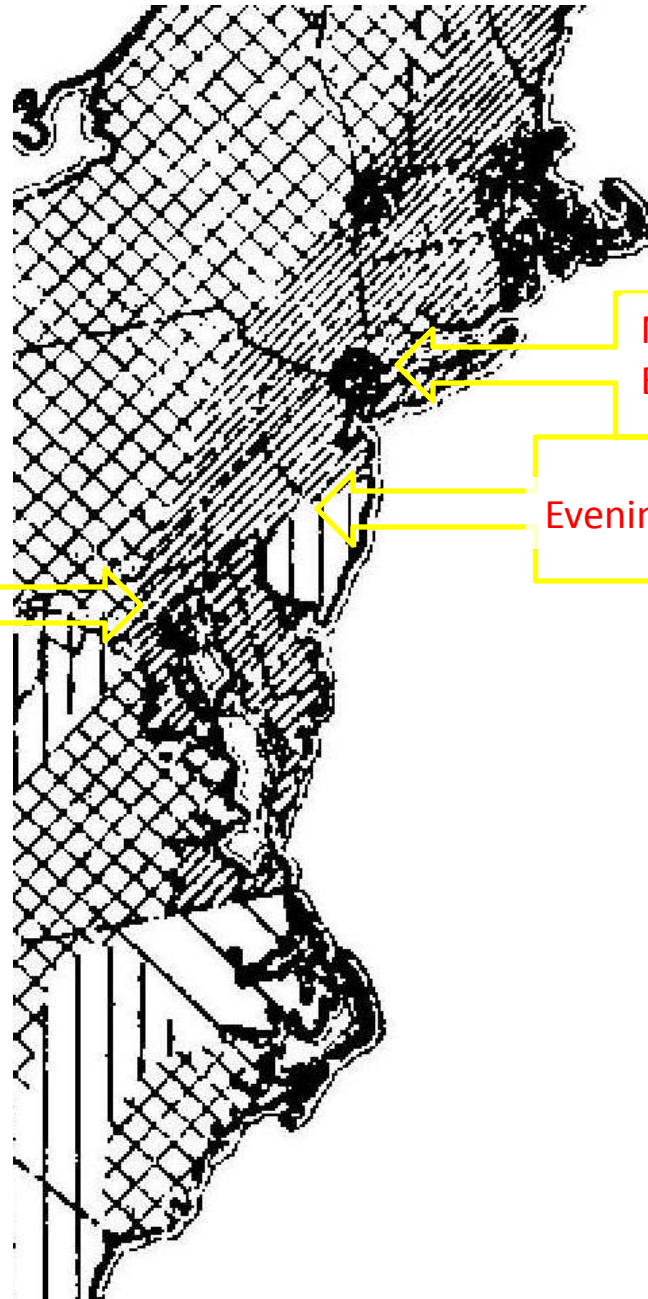
# Chronicling America Newspapers covering the 1918 Influenza Epidemic



Chronological map of the influenza epidemic of 1918. Based on preliminary reports from 376 localities. Indicating the approximate dates on which the disease reached an epidemic stage.



## Chronicling America Newspapers: 1918 Influenza Epidemic

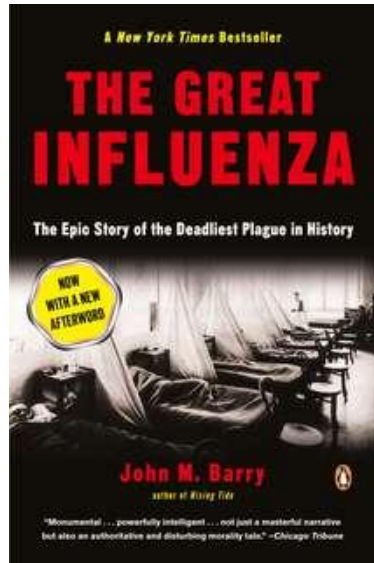


Washington Times

New York Tribune  
Evening World

Evening Public Ledger

## Covering the flu



Newspapers reported on the disease with the same mixture of truth and half-truth, truth and distortion, truth and lies with which they reported everything else...As terrifying as the disease was, the press made it more so. They terrified by making little of it, for what officials and the press said bore no relationship to what people saw and touched and smelled and endured. People could not trust what they read. Uncertainty follows distrust, fear follows distrust, and, under conditions such as these, terror follows fear...Over and over in hundreds of newspapers, day after day, repeated in one form or another people read [Surgeon General] Rupert Blue's reassurance as well: "There is no cause for alarm if precautions are observed'."...'Don't Get Scared!' was the advice printed in virtually every newspaper in the country, in large, blocked-off parts of pages labeled 'Advice on How to Avoid Influenza.'...How could one not get panicky? Even before people's neighbors began to die, before bodies began to pile up in each new community, every piece of information except the newspapers told the truth...Fear drove the people, and the government and the press could not control it. They could not control it because every true report had been diluted with lies. And the more the officials and newspapers reassured,...the more people believed themselves cast adrift, adrift with no one to trust, adrift on an ocean of death." (John Barry, *The Great Influenza*, pp. 334-340)

Search Pages

Advanced Search

All Digitized Newspapers 1836-1922

US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

All states + from 1836 to 1922 + Don't get scared GO

Pages Available: 5,206,652

Print Subscribe Share/Save

Results 1 - 12 of 12 Jump to page: GO

View: Gallery List

12 results containing "don't get scared"

Show only front pages Sort by: Relevance Results per page: 20



[Mahave County miner and our mineral wealth. \(Kingsman, Ariz.\), November 09, 1918, Page PAGE TWO, Image 2](#)



[The Mt. Sterling advocate. \(Mt. Sterling, Ky.\), October 08, 1918, Image 4](#)



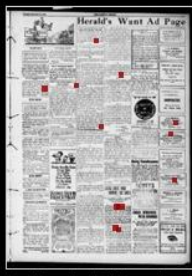
[The Red Cloud chief. \(Red Cloud, Webster Co., Neb.\), November 28, 1918, Image 4](#)



[The Bemidji daily pioneer. \(Bemidji, Minn.\), October 17, 1918, Image 4](#)



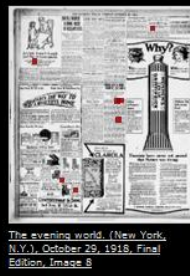
[The Bemidji daily pioneer. \(Bemidji, Minn.\), November 29, 1918, Page 4, Image 4](#)



[The Alliance herald. \(Alliance, Box Butte County, Neb.\), November 14, 1918, LOCAL EDITION, Image 4](#)



[The Hartford republican. \(Hartford, Ky.\), November 01, 1918, Image 8](#)



[The evening world. \(New York, N.Y.\), October 29, 1918, Final Edition, Image 8](#)



[The Washington herald. \(Washington, D.C.\), October 31, 1918, Page 8, Image 8](#)



[The Ogden standard. \(Ogden City, Utah\), October 29, 1918, LAST EDITION - 3:30 P.M., Page 2, Image 8](#)



[The evening world. \(New York, N.Y.\), October 29, 1918, Final Edition, Image 15](#)



[The evening herald. \(Albuquerque, N.M.\), September 02, 1918, Image 6](#)

Search terms:

Don't + get + scared within 5 words:

12 results in

10 titles from 8 states

Results linked to Influenza: 4

Results **not** linked to influenza: 8



## WHAT ABOUT WHAT?

We read in eastern newspapers and magazines about so many whats after the war that we expect soon to have a war of swatting the what. That poor word has been so overworked that we expect it soon to go into innocuous dessuetude. After the war is over this country is going to take care of itself in farming, mining and every industrial pursuit. The mere fact that our own United States has engaged in a philanthropic war is no base for the belief that everything will be turned topsy-turvy when the boys come marching home again. We read what is to happen to gold what is going to happen to silver; what is going to happen to shipping and ship building; what is going to happen to ———.

Well nothing is going to happen to something after the war or before the war is over. The United States is so big and great and enterprising that no man nor set of men nor all the men can put it on the bunm. Don't get scared over the problems of after the war, or the flu or other measley things, but get ready to take care of the greatest boom all along the line that the country has ever known.

“Don't get scared over the problems after the war, or the flu or other measly things, but get ready to take care of the greatest boom all along the line that the country has ever known.”





*Washington Times*  
September 26, 1918, p. 1.





*Washington Times*  
October 4, 1918, p. 1.

And now Germany is withdrawing from Belgium and Brussels will soon have to sign a scrap of paper that will STAND.

...FOLLOW? ...NON-ESSENTIAL CITIZENS. No. 56.

A line drawing of a road with a sign that reads "THE WINNING RUN". The road is a simple horizontal line with a small vertical line in the center. The sign is a curved banner above the road.

WELL DRESSED MAN.  
(CUTTING) 1718 Chicago Highway.  
(CUTTING) 1718 Chicago Highway.

[illegible]

*Washington Times*  
October 4, 1918, p. 1.



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tagxedo.com

## Timelines: Influenza across space and time

### Washington DC

Population, as of July 1918: 401,681

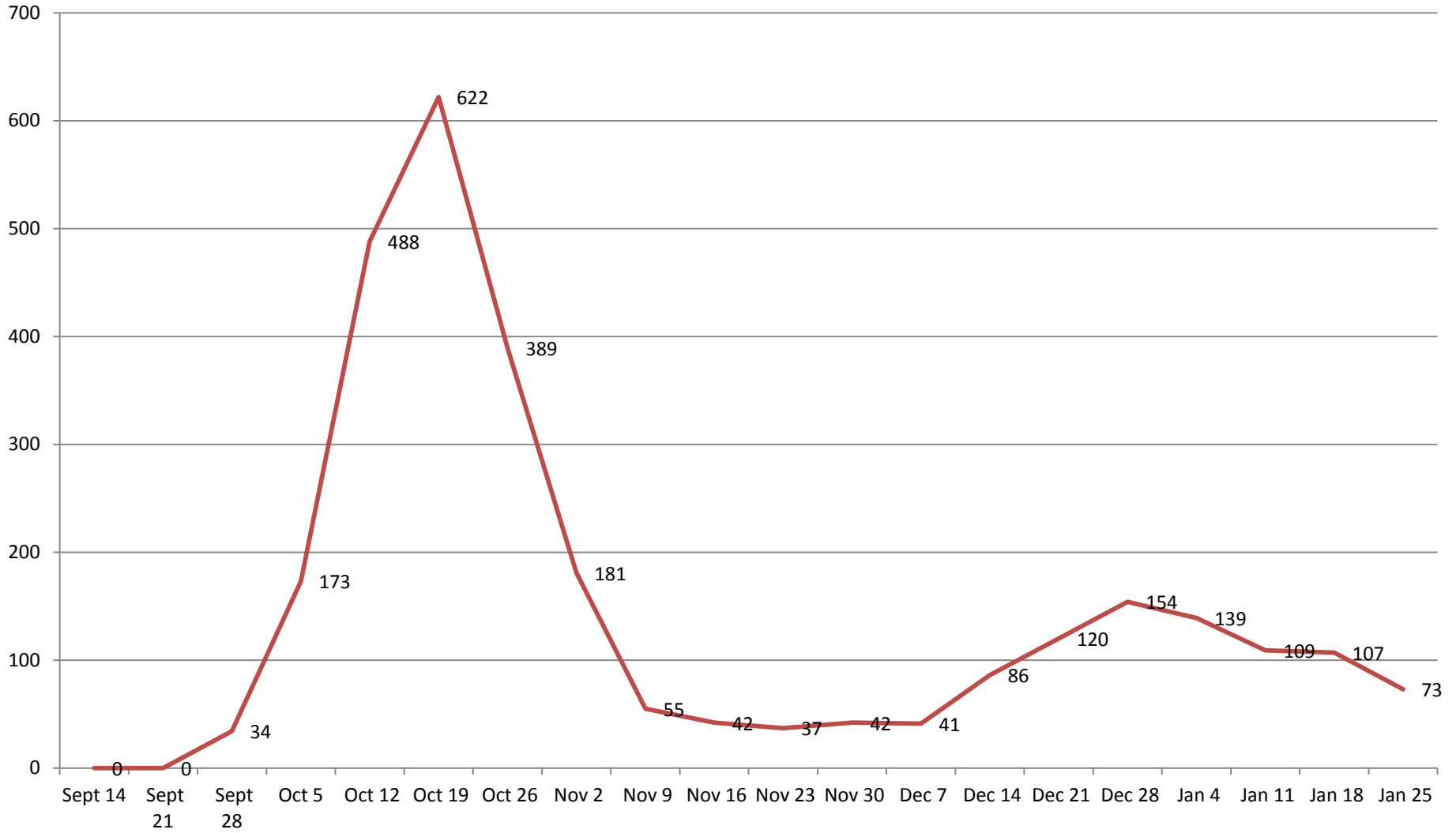
Estimated deaths due to influenza, Sept 1918 to Jan 1919: 2,892

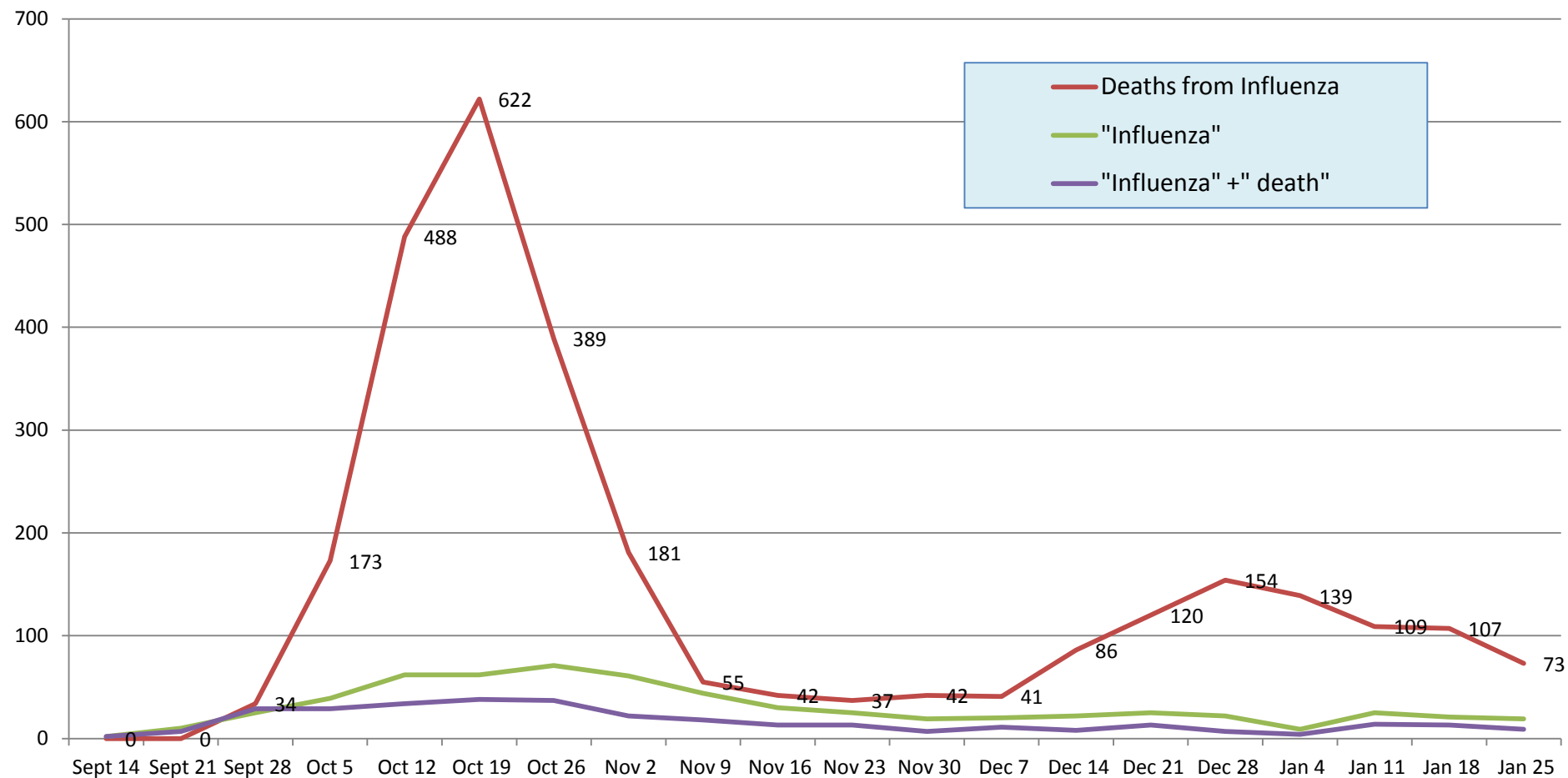
Source: “Deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia in Cities of the United States, 1918-19,” *Public Health Reports*, Vol. 34, No. 6, February 7, 1919, p. 226-227.

<b>Week ending</b>	<b>Sept 14</b>	<b>Sept 21</b>	<b>Sept 28</b>	<b>Oct 5</b>
Deaths	0	0	34	173
<b>Week ending</b>	<b>Oct 12</b>	<b>Oct 19</b>	<b>Oct 26</b>	<b>Nov 2</b>
Deaths	<b>488</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>389</b>	181
<b>Week ending</b>	<b>Nov 9</b>	<b>Nov 16</b>	<b>Nov 23</b>	<b>Nov 30</b>
Deaths	55	42	37	42
<b>Week ending</b>	<b>Dec 7</b>	<b>Dec 14</b>	<b>Dec 21</b>	<b>Dec 28</b>
Deaths	41	86	120	154



## Deaths from Influenza in Washington DC





Search in *Chronicling America* for *Washington Times* for terms:

- 1) "influenza" (613 total)
- 2) "influenza" and "death" (328 total)

# Network Analysis

## Tracing the first victims

Washington Times  
September 20, 1918, p. 1.

THE WEATHER:  
Partly cloudy and cooler tonight; tomorrow fair, cooler. Temperature at 8 a. m., 67 degrees. Normal temperature for Sept. 20 for last thirty years 67 degrees.

NUMBER 10,656.

Published at Washington, D. C., Friday, September 20, 1918.

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 20, 1918.

[Closes Wall Street Prices.]

PRICE TWO CENTS.

# ESCAPED CONVICT CONFESSES TO THE KILLING OF EVA ROY

## WOMAN KEEPS BARON'S BODY FOR 7 DAYS; IS ARRESTED

After looking the body of Baron de Esposita in a room for seven days and refusing to permit the removal, Miss Mary E. Case, twenty-five years old, of 1738 W. 17th street northwest, was arrested today by Capt. Robert H. Doyle, of the eighth precinct, charged with the violation of section 877 of the D. C. code, which provides that no person shall be held unduly for more than seven days after death, without the permission of the Health Officer.

Miss Case was removed to the Washington Asylum for observation.

**Called Female Client.**

Baron de Esposita is said to be Miss Case's father, and she is said to have kept the body of the dead man for seven days, and refused to remove the body or to permit the removal of the body, until she was called by the Health Officer.

## PALMER REPLIES TO SENATE RESOLUTION

Sends Documents Bearing On Purchase of The Times By Arthur Brisbane.

In response to a letter of inquiry from Senator King of Utah and the House committee on inquiry into the purchase of the Washington Times by Arthur Brisbane, a statement was made today by the publisher, J. M. McMane, that the purchase of the Times by Mr. Brisbane was made in accordance with the provisions of the act of March 1, 1917, which provides that no person shall be held unduly for more than seven days after death, without the permission of the Health Officer.

## SCHOOL TERMS SHORTENED TO RELEASE PUPILS FOR WAR WORK

Intensive courses of study in high schools and sixth, seventh, and eighth grades of Washington schools will be shortened so that the school year may be shortened and the students released for war work.



## BEN RUBIN DECLARES HE CHOKED GIRL TO DEATH NEAR FAIRFAX

Benjamin Rubin, twenty-one years old, of Chicago, a convict who escaped from the District reformatory, at Lorton, Va., on July 10, confessed this afternoon that he killed Eva Roy.

"She threatened to tell the authorities that I was an escaped convict," he told Inspector of Detectives Clifford L. Grant, at Police Headquarters.

"I let her go for a minute and she breathed and began to cry. She then said she would tell on me."

"When I went to talk to her, she said, 'If you'll let me go, I will not tell on you. I then started to back away. I got mad and afraid and again grabbed her, saying her by the throat.'"

## AMERICAN GUN RAKING ENEMY AROUND METZ; YANKS GO ON

Desperate resistance is being met by the Americans in the attack on Metz, and the enemy is being driven back.

## MOVE TO CHECK INFLUENZA IN D. C.

Dr. William C. Fowler, District Health Officer, will today conduct the first inspection of cases of Spanish influenza in Washington.

## TWO WOMEN FOUND STRANGELY KILLED

WILKINSON, Pa., Sept. 20.—The bodies of two women were found today in a room at the Hotel Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

## SLACKERS DELAY SHIP PRODUCTION

The great fleet of ships ordered at Washington will be well in service by the end of the month, according to the War Relocation Administration.

## BULGARS' RETREAT BECOMES A ROUT

LATHAM, Sept. 20.—The Bulgarians retreat from the Balkans is becoming a rout, according to the British press.

## GERMANY TO QUIT RUSS PROVINCES

LONDON, Sept. 20.—The German Government has announced that it will withdraw its troops from the Russian provinces.

## MOEUVRES AGAIN IN ALLIED HANDS

LONDON, Sept. 20.—The Allies have taken the offensive in the attack on Metz, and the enemy is being driven back.

## OCTOBER 12 SET AS "LIBERTY DAY"

The "Liberty Day" movement is being organized for October 12, which is the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

## UNABLE TO AGREE ON LOAN PROVISION

The House and Senate are unable to agree on the provisions of the loan bill, which provides for the issuance of government bonds.

## SUICIDE SAID TO BE CONG. MANN'S SON

It is said that the son of Congressman Mann has committed suicide.

## WOMAN FIGHTERS' ORGANIZER SLAIN

A woman who organized a group of women fighters has been killed in action.

## DEATHS AS FIANCEE AND PASTOR WAIT

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Washington Times  
September 20, 1918, pp. 1, 2.

# MOVE TO CHECK INFLUENZA IN D. C.

Dr. William C. Fowler, District Health Officer, will today investigate the first suspected cases of Spanish influenza in Washington.

The patients are Lieut. Arthur Henne and his wife, of 3165 Eighteenth street northwest. The lieutenant became ill upon his return from New York last Monday. Mrs. Henne, who had also been in New York, became ill last Wednesday. Of the two cases Mrs. Henne's is the most severe.

As a result of the spread of the disease near Washington, Dr. Fowler today made an appeal to all doctors throughout the city to report all cases of acute grip which they suspect to be Spanish influenza to the District Health Office in the Municipal Building.

The majority of doctors in Washington admit they do not know the exact symptoms and characteristics of the so-called "Spanish influenza," and so it will be left to the District Health Office to investigate and isolate any cases that show symptoms of developing into the dread disease.

Spanish influenza is not on the list of diseases which doctors are required to report to the Health Office, but because of the way it has spread in other cities, Dr. Fowler wishes physicians to immediately report all suspected cases to him.

The case of Lieutenant Henne and his wife was reported to Dr. Fowler today. It is the first case that the Health Office will investigate, and if proven to be true influenza Dr. Fow-

(Continued on Page 2, Column 3.)

# INFLUENZA KILLS THIRD D. C. VICTIM

(Continued from First Page.)

Red Cross, is engaged in the manufacture of masks for the use of persons afflicted with influenza. The chapter has volunteered to supply a quantity of these masks for army use, and it is hoped to have 2,500 of the gauze protectors ready for delivery tomorrow.

The masks are to be worn by persons afflicted with influenza as well as by those attending patients suffering from respiratory diseases. It is not thought the use of masks will become general, and health officials are inclined to doubt their value for general use as a preventive measure.

Army camps throughout the country have reported 29,002 cases of influenza to date, with 2,313 cases of pneumonia.

Army cases within the District now total 134. No deaths have resulted in the camps here. The Marine Barracks reported eight cases yesterday, the first at the barracks.

Camp Meade today was ordered under general quarantine.

The order will be effective tomorrow. No officers or men are allowed to leave the camp, and no visitors will be received. More than 1,000 cases of influenza have been recorded there.

Reports of the Public Health Service show that the disease has spread to twenty-six States. Yesterday, for the first time, cases were reported from the States of Washington and California.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Sept. 26.—The 2,100 students of the Naval Academy were placed under strict quarantine last night as the result of the spread of Spanish influenza among them. About 100 suspected cases have been reported, and while none of the cases have reached the severe stage, every precaution is being taken.

The affected midshipmen are being sent to the sick bay as soon as symptoms of the disease are shown. There have been no cases of pneumonia reported thus far. It is thought the disease was brought to Annapolis by the students who recently returned from leave.

“Move to Check Influenza in D. C.,” *Washington Times* Sept. 20, 1918 pp. 1-2

“Dr. William C. Fowler, District Health Officer, will today investigate **the first suspected cases of Spanish influenza** in Washington. The patients are Lieut. Arthur Henne and his wife, of 3165 Eighteenth street northwest. The lieutenant **became ill upon his return** from New York last Monday. Mrs. Henne, who had also been in New York, became ill last Wednesday. Of the two cases Mrs. Henne’s is the most severe...The case of Lieutenant Henne and his wife was reported to Dr. Fowler today. It is the first case that the Health Office will investigate, and if proven to be true influenza Dr. Fowler will take proper steps to keep the disease from spreading. **Lieutenant Henne was ordered to New York last Friday and his wife went with him.** Upon his return last Monday night he did not feel well, but thought little of it, believing it was only a slight cold. Tuesday morning he did not go to his office in the Chemical Warfare section of the War Department. Wednesday **his wife also became ill**, and so it was decided to call in a physician. The physician did not diagnose the case as Spanish influenza as he was not certain just what constitutes that disease, never having had a case before, but **he ordered both the lieutenant and his wife to remain indoors**, and they are now waiting for further developments. Lieutenant Henne told his attending physician that he had a bad cold, a headache, backache, and it was found that he also had a slight fever. **Lieutenant Henne said it was something like hay fever or an ‘old-fashioned cold,’ only much worse than either.**”

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# Network Analysis

Tracking word combinations in *Chronicling America*:

- “cover” and “cough” within 10 words
- All of 1918: 147 results
- Jan 1 to Sept 15, 1918: 11 results
- Sept 16 to Dec 31, 1918: 136 results
- 92% of results in less than 30% of days



## NEW ATTACK IS LAUNCHED BY ITALIANS IN ALBANIA

## 50,000 PRISONERS CAPTURED IN EAST

The British and French in the Holy Land have wiped out two Turkish armies.

## ARTILLERY DUEL RAGES NEAR METZ

A German artillery piece was brought down today near Xammas by our high angle guns and the pilot and observer were both captured unharmed.

Ne

**Deelin**

O'Sullivan  
Rubber

**KLEIN'S RAPID S**

Main Store, 736 14th  
910 F St. N.W. 1219 Pa. Ave. 4

9th St. N.W. 714 9th St. N.W.

Safe Rent

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Received 12 July 2006; accepted 12 July 2006

than we have ever shown before.

It is unique and striking, and comprises Scotch tweeds, heather shetlands, Irish hand loom and other weaves.

There are overcoats for dress or motoring—military, single or double breasted style, and they range in price from

**\$25 to \$60**

*Parker Bridgton Co.*

The Avenue at Ninth

Influenza Is Spread by Droplets  
Sprayed From Nose and  
Throat.

Protect Others From Disease.

Cover or Smother Your Cough  
and Sneeze.

## DOCTORS UNITE TO FIGHT INFLUENZA

(Continued from First Page.)

ing humanity thus afflicted to exert all possible effort to use handkerchiefs to smother sneezes and coughs. Dr. Phelps has ordered placards printed for all governmental institutions controlled by the navy in Washington, and as soon as printed these will be posted in every direction. One of them will be something like this:

Influenza Is Spread by Droplets  
Sprayed From Nose and  
Throat.

Protect Others From Disease.

Cover or Smother Your Cough  
and Sneeze.

Dr. Phelps declared that there was unanimous agreement among medical experts that influenza of whatever name is spread through secretions of those afflicted reaching the healthy. All respiratory diseases are thus conveyed.

Cannot Stop Crowding.

Both Dr. Phelps and Dr. Fowler see the impossibility of stopping the use of street cars and of people being thrown together in office buildings, theaters, and homes. They do not know just how much good may be done by a campaign of warning, but they feel that the public in Washington should be educated as quickly as possible.

Without becoming unduly alarmed, all the medical authorities of this city realize that Washington, with its present congestion, is a promising field for the influenza germ, and that enlightenment is absolutely the best preventative.

Dr. Fowler may decide to use placards in the street cars, and is sure the street car companies will co-operate in every possible way with his department.

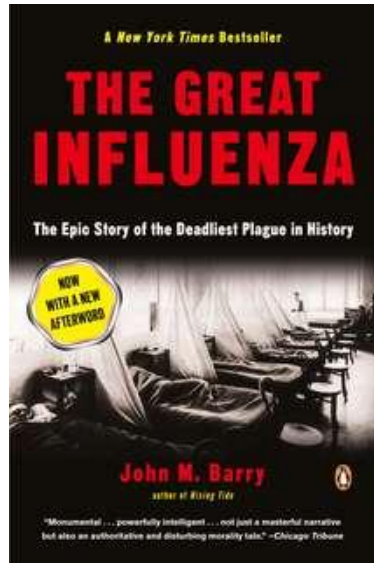
The disease has not yet hit Washington in force. Among citizens only nine cases have so far been reported here, with one death. In the army camps around Washington there were sixty-seven cases Monday and another sixty-seven yesterday, seven of this total developing into pneumonia, with no deaths.

The familiar "don'ts" that so often appear in newspapers all center around the general idea of avoiding the germs sprayed by others, and with the advice to keep in the fresh air as much as possible, always having your room sweet with the air at night.

What To Do When You Get It.

When you do get influenza every doctor agrees that the quickest and safest thing to do is to get right into your bed and stay there until you are better. Get in between blankets is the advice of many of them. Most of them agree that plenty of hot drinks is the next best thing.

# Tone Analysis



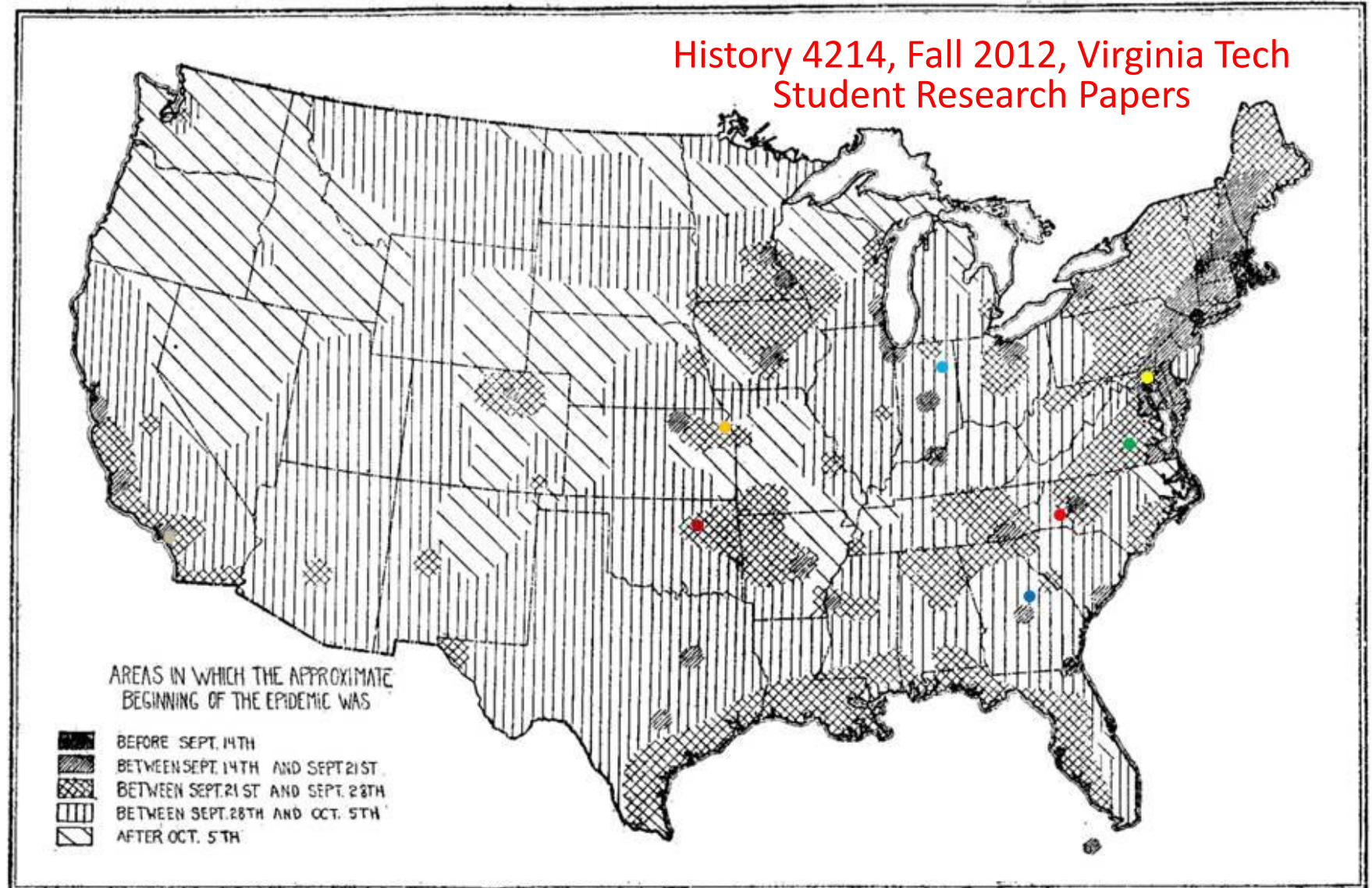
Newspapers reported on the disease with the same mixture of truth and half-truth, truth and distortion, truth and lies with which they reported everything else...As **terrifying** as the disease was, the press made it more so. They terrified by making little of it, for what officials and the press said bore no relationship to what people saw and touched and smelled and endured. People could not **trust** what they read. **Uncertainty** follows **distrust**, **fear** follows **distrust**, and, under conditions such as these, **terror** follows **fear**...Over and over in hundreds of newspapers, day after day, repeated in one form or another people read [Surgeon General] Rupert Blue's reassurance as well: "There is no cause for alarm if precautions are observed'."...'Don't Get Scared!' was the advice printed in virtually every newspaper in the country, in large, blocked-off parts of pages labeled 'Advice on How to Avoid Influenza.'...How could one not get **panicky**? Even before people's neighbors began to die, before bodies began to pile up in each new community, every piece of information except the newspapers told the truth...**Fear** drove the people, and the government and the press could not control it. They could not control it because every true report had been diluted with lies. And the more the officials and newspapers reassured,...the more people believed themselves cast adrift, adrift with no one to trust, adrift on an ocean of death." (John Barry, *The Great Influenza*, pp. 334-340)



- ☐ Alarmist
- ☐ Warning
- ☐ Encouraging
- ☐ Patriotic
- ☒ **Explanatory**
- ☐ Reassuring
- ☐ Humorous
- ☐ Incomprehensible

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## History 4214, Fall 2012, Virginia Tech Student Research Papers




Chronological map of the influenza epidemic of 1918. Based on preliminary reports from 376 localities. Indicating the approximate dates on which the disease reached an epidemic stage.

- |                     |                     |                           |                       |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Tulsa World       | • Los Angeles Times | • Charlotte Observer      | • Baltimore American  |
| • Kansas City Times | • Macon Telegraph   | • Richmond Times Dispatch | • Fort Wayne Sentinel |



# Why the 1918 Influenza Pandemic Matters



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2012

Home | Newsroom | Videos | Resources | En Español

Know what to do about the flu.

SEARCH

Symptoms & Treatment

Prevention & Vaccination

Who's At Risk

About the Flu

Planning & Preparedness

**Pandemic Awareness**


About Pandemics

Current Situation

Global Activities

Research Activities

History




## H3N2v: Be Safe at the Fair

There has been a recent increase of H3N2v transmission at county fairs, resulting in limited person-to-person transmission. For the latest information on avoiding the flu while visiting a fair, visit [CDC's latest fact sheet](#). Learn more about [H3N2v](#).



# Why the 1918 Influenza Pandemic Matters



Know what to do about the flu.

SEARCH

Home | Newsroom | Videos | Resources | En Español

Symptoms & Treatment | Prevention & Vaccination | Who's At Risk | About the Flu | Planning & Preparedness | **Pandemic Awareness**

Home > Pandemic Awareness > **Pandemic Flu History**

Text Size AAAA Print Send Post Tweet Share

## Pandemic Awareness

- About Pandemics
- Current Situation
- Global Activities
- Research Activities
- History**

## Pandemic Flu History

Flu pandemics have occurred throughout history. There have been four since 1918, each with different characteristics.

### 1918 – 1919

Illness from the 1918 flu pandemic, also known as the Spanish flu, came on quickly. Some people felt fine in the morning but died by nightfall. People who caught the Spanish Flu but did not die from it often died from complications caused by bacteria, such as pneumonia.

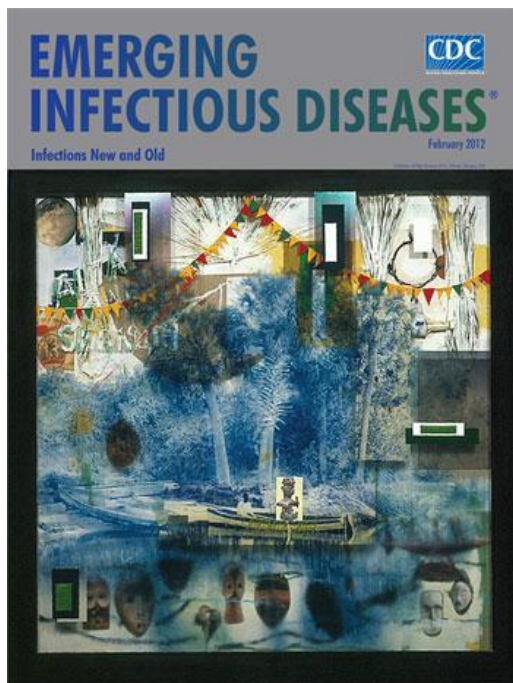
During the 1918 pandemic:

- Approximately 20% to 40% of the worldwide population became ill
- An estimated 50 million people died
- Nearly 675,000 people died in the United States

# Pathogenic Responses among Young Adults during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic

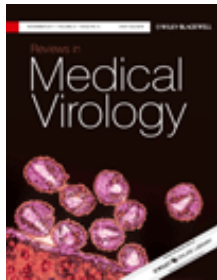
G. Dennis Shanks and John F. Brundage

*Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 18/2  
February 2012



The influenza pandemic of 1918–19 was the most deadly single event in recorded history. Because of its unique severity and global effects, it is the prototype of a global natural disaster. In recent years, fears of recurrence of an influenza pandemic similar to that in 1918 have motivated planning, preparations, and allocations of resources by public health and other government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, medical care providers, pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers, medical researchers, private businesses, and persons worldwide (1).

Because of severe consequences and current relevance of the 1918 pandemic, it is essential to review its events and effects, determine their underlying causes, and assess likelihood of a recurrence. These tasks are difficult because the 1918 pandemic occurred at the end of World War I, before influenza viruses were discovered and before influenza vaccines, antiviral and antibacterial drugs, and intensive medical care were available.



## Pandemic influenza: certain uncertainties

David M. Morens\* and Jeffery K. Taubenberger

*National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA*

“...the historical evidence suggests that pandemics are...a heterogeneous collection of viral adaptational events, the determinants of which are probably highly complex and remain obscure...With human influenza, the only certain thing seems to be uncertainty.” (pp. 275-276)



That Guiliest Feeling

Copyright, 1918,  
by The Tribune  
Association.

By Briggs

WHEN YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING  
IN A BIG SNEEZE FOR A LONG  
TIME AND YOU HAVE TO LET IT  
GO JUST AS YOUR OPPONENT IS  
ABOUT TO PUTT, ALSO THE  
INFLUENZA SUSPICION IS  
AROUSD



“When you’ve been holding in a big sneeze for a long time and you have to let it go just as your opponent is about to putt. Also the influenza suspicion is aroused.”

“Well for thuh luva mike— this is a swell place for me to be—we’ll all be catchin’ the influenza I can see that.”