The Impact of Pandemic Influenza on Public Health

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Part Two of Six

History
“Spanish Flu” A(H1N1): 1918-1919

Approximately 20-40 million people died worldwide, and over 500,000 in US.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine
The Big Pandemic of 1918

U.S. life expectancy 1900-1960

Life expectancy

Year
Images from the 1918 Influenza Epidemic

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine
The Big Pandemic of 1918

U.S. influenza and pneumonia deaths by age

Specific Death Rate

Age Divisions

< 1  1-4  5-14  15-24  25-34  35-44  45-54  55-64  65-74  75-84  > 85

1911-1917

1918
Images from the 1918 Influenza Epidemic

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine
Approximate Beginning of the Epidemic, 1918

Map showing the approximate beginning of the epidemic, 1918, across the United States. The map indicates the timeline from before Sept. 14 to after Oct. 5, with various dates in between.

Source: America's Forgotten Pandemic - The Influenza of 1918 - 1989
During the 1957-1958 Asian flu epidemic, a school child in Islington, London, gargles to keep the virus at bay. More than a million people died worldwide and about 70,000 in the U.S.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine
Spread of “Asian Influenza” (H2N2), 1957
“Hong Kong Flu” A(H3N2), 1968-69

- Members of the Red Guard in China covered their mouths against flu germs in 1968 on the orders of Chairman Mao.
- The Hong Kong flu of 1968-69 killed more than one million people worldwide, and 34,000 in U.S.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine
Timeline of Emergence of Influenza A Viruses in Humans

- 1918: Spanish Influenza (H1N1)
- 1957: Asian Influenza (H2N2)
- 1968: Hong Kong Influenza (H3N2)
- 1977: Asian Influenza (H1N1)
- 1997: Avian Influenza (H5N1)
- 1998/9: Avian Influenza (H9N2)
Recorded Influenza Pandemics

1: epidemic, 2: probable pandemic, 3: pandemic

Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality for 122 U.S. Cities

- For the week ending March 20, 2006