

Influenza Pandemic 1918-19 A Timeline

Spring 1918	<p>First appears in French soldiers on the Western Front. Called Spanish Flu. Argued that it was brought to the front by American soldiers. It was a three day type of flu.</p> <p>Also claimed to have come from Middle East or China or India.</p>
March 11, 1918	<p>First case of the influenza reported at Camp Funston, Kansas. Within two days more than 500 cases reported. Within a week cases were reported in every state.</p>
April 1918	<p>Cases of a highly contagious influenza first noticed among soldiers coming into Rouen, France. By mid April China and Japan were reporting cases.</p>
May 1918	<p>First cases appear in Glasgow. 228,000 Britons died from the illness. Britons go to extreme measures to stop the spread of the disease. Wore special masks, believed they should eat plenty of porridge, some factories encourage smoking in the belief that tobacco smoke would kill the germs.</p> <p>By mid-May Africa and South America were reporting cases.</p>
Summer 1918	<p>Flu returns with a vengeance. Complications included blood poisoning and pneumonia.</p>
June 1918	<p>First cases appear in Bombay.</p>
July 1918	<p>Cases begin to appear in Madras and Karachi. Estimated total dead by end of 1919 as high as 16 million.</p>
September-December 1918	<p>Second Wave of the epidemic begins with the arrival of soldiers in Boston in early September. Flu ravages the U.S. About 450,000 die.</p>
September 28, 1918	<p>20,000 gather for a parade in Philadelphia. Within days more than 600 cases of influenza are reported.</p>

October 1918	195, 000 Americans die from influenza and related complications in one month.
November 11, 1918	30,000 San Franciscans, all wearing masks gather to celebrate the end of the war. By the end of the month citizens were told they no longer had to wear masks, the worst was over.
December 1918	5000 new cases of influenza are reported in San Francisco.
Winter 1918	Australia began to see cases of Spanish Flu, but it was not overly virulent. Australian physicians were aware of the influenza cases in Europe and America and took measure to protect the public. Measures were put into place requiring people to wear masks in public and eventually public gatherings were prohibited. Also, pharmacists were prohibited from overcharging for medications to treat the flu.
Fall 1919	Influenza strikes Australia with a vengeance. It abates by February of 1920. Nearly half of the Australian deaths were in New South Wales.