Works Cited

Primary Sources


These diary entries by an unknown author showed us how overcrowded hospitals were because of influenza. For example, it states that “no matter how many times or whether night or day the receiving ward is full of boys waiting their turn to be treated or given a place to sleep.”


This article showed how health departments urged the public to look after their health in 1920. For example, everybody “was urged to have a full physical examination at least once, or preferably twice, a year.”


In this advertisement, we learned that the influenza preferred young adults as victims during the pandemic.

This advertisement showed us what measures companies in 1918 declared would supposedly help get rid of influenza. These included staying away from crowds, not worrying, and if sick, staying in bed until the doctor permitted the victim to leave.


This article told us some preventive measures used in 1918 to help control the spread of influenza. It also talked about the lack of people available to take care of influenza victims’ homes, and how many of them were overworked.


This primary source showed us what the doctors and health officers thought about influenza and how much knowledge they had about it in 1918. For example, they figured out Spain didn’t start the pandemic, but thought it originated from the east in 1917.


This source gave a list of the citizens who were ill or recovering from influenza in 1918.


This article gave us a few more facts about previous influenza appearances before the fall
of 1918. For example, in Chicago and New York, during the winter of 1915, there were extensive, but mild, cases of influenza, and in January 1916, there was a mild influenza epidemic in 22 states.

Lutiant. Letter from nurse to her friend at the Haskell Indian Nations University, Kansas, October 17, 1918. TS. Archives. 26 Jan. 2016. 
This source told us how hard the nurses worked during the pandemic and how much they suffered while watching officers and soldiers die.

This short article tells us how Seattle decided to prepare for a future influenza pandemic. Preparations include recognizing the early cases of an epidemic and setting aside an emergency fund for preventive measures in the early days of an epidemic.

This newspaper article told us that immediately after the 1918 pandemic ended, military camps were preparing for the return of a less deadly, but still feared, influenza epidemic. The article showed how people started to realize what they did wrong about influenza in 1918 and how they could fix their mistakes. This article also gave an insight on the medical community, which still hadn’t isolated the influenza virus.

Richardson, D.A. Letter from visiting doctor reporting situation to superintendent, Albuquerque Day
This source told us about the symptoms of the 1918 influenza, such as a headache, runny nose, a racking cough, sneezing, a high temperature, etc. The letter stated the methods that doctors advised to recovering patients. These include, but aren’t limited to, maintaining a horizontal position, eating nothing but fluid food, and drinking lots of hot water. It also explained the different stages of pneumonia, which was a complication of the 1918 influenza, went in depth about the case of a particular influenza victim, Jose Jaramillo, who lasted around twelve days before he died, and stated the impact of the pandemic on New Mexico, which includes creating records of all the cases and gaining the Indians’ trust.


This source showed how exhausting a doctor’s job was during the 1918 influenza pandemic. Some had to get up at 5:30 in the morning, work steadily until 9:30 p.m., sleep, and then, repeat the process again the next day.


This letter showed us what tasks were done by the Red Cross during the influenza pandemic of 1918. They supplied knitted goods for the soldiers when needed, advised the men in business, legal, financial, and social problems, referred family needs or troubles to the Home Service League, and looked over the hospitals’ medicine and equipment.

This newspaper article told us what the government knew about the 1918 influenza virus, how it spread, the symptoms it caused, what caused it, what should be done if it is caught, and how to prevent it. For example, influenza was supposedly caused by a small, rod-shaped germ called Pfeiffer's bacillus (false) and it spread from person to person (true).


This directive from 1918 showed us how little the government knew about the 1918 virus. For example, they falsely assumed that staying calm, not travelling by the railroad, keeping in good physical condition, and eating simple foods would help protect oneself from getting the virus. However the government knew that the 1918 influenza was associated with symptoms such as chilliness, severe headaches, a raw throat, and dry cough. The directive also lists how to prevent spreading the virus to others (by staying at home and trying not to laugh, sneeze, cough, or talk in public) and useless methods for recovery, such as keeping the body warm and getting plenty of fresh air.


This advertisement showed us the absurd preventives they used, such as walking on the sunny side of the street. Unfortunately, none of them worked.
Secondary Sources


Aronson’s book was a secondhand account with multiple letters and reports scattered in between. It provided us with an understanding of how deadly the 1918 influenza pandemic really was and how medical researchers and scientists worked together to discover the cause of the virus.


This website explained the impact the war had on the government and people during the influenza pandemic. For example, the first signs of influenza were ignored in military camps as countries focused on the war.


This article tells how Columbus was impacted in 1918 during the pandemic. At first, the city was not worried by influenza, so the Columbus Health Officer didn't implement strong measures and allowed influenza to spread easily through events such as the Liberty Loan Parade. But then the Ohio governor, Commissioner of Health, and representatives of local health departments noticed other Ohio towns had closed some of their public places and the group decided to take action by sending a series of strong recommendations to statewide health departments. Soon, the Columbus health officer started following these recommendations through multiple examples, such as requesting that citizens refrain from attending church services, having downtown merchants voluntarily shorten their hours, and asking cabarets to close by 9:00 pm rather than midnight.

This interview with Mr. Crosby, author of *Epidemic and Peace 1918: America’s Forgotten Pandemic*, showed us how chaotic the world had been during the pandemic of 1918 by explaining how there had been no correct path to take, incorrect diagnoses were made, and an improper name was given to the virus.


This page told us what knowledge the medical researchers had in 1918, the symptoms the 1918 virus was associated with (sore throat, exhaustion, headache, aching limbs, bloodshot eyes, cough etc.), the preventive measures (gauze masks, no spitting in public), the useless attempts for vaccines, the home remedies that were used (one woman claimed that her secret remedy consisted of water, salt and coal oil), and the ineffective medical treatments that doctors performed on sick patients (causing patients to sweat by wrapping them in blankets or cupping them to remove excess blood).


This article explained the dangers of a future pandemic. It told us about the pandemics that happened after 1918 such as the Asian flu of 1957 and the Hong Kong flu of 1968.


This video provided a basic overview of the effects the influenza virus had on the United States and the changes the US made in order to try and prevent damage on society.

This article provided a little more information about the horrors of influenza. It talked about how people could be healthy in the morning and dead by nightfall, while others died more slowly, suffocating from the buildup of fluid in their lungs.


This section talked about how influenza spread from Kansas to the rest of the world, each of the three waves in which it spread, and the short term effects on the public such as the mail piling up as postal carriers failed to come to work.


This book gave an overview of the effect and spread of the virus. It talked about how the war and infection clashed to form a worldwide pandemic, explained how the scientific community reacted, and the attempts to find a cure.


This website talked about how many people forget about the pandemic because World War I had a greater impact, and how very little medical research was done after the pandemic. It also talked about the short term effects of the pandemic, like small businesses going bankrupt, other influenza pandemics of the twentieth century, and the science leading up to the influenza vaccines that we have today.

This source explained the negative impact the influenza had on Philadelphia, the American city with the most deaths during the pandemic. Seventy five thousand cases were reported in mid-September, yet the worst was yet to come. Worried health authorities added influenza to the list of reportable diseases. Theaters, schools, churches, and saloons had closed, but the influenza continued to spread.


This book supplied us with information about previous pandemics in history and how World War I had an impact on the influenza pandemic of 1918. It also explained why it is not mentioned in many history books and encyclopedias.


This source told us about the useless attempts to try and control the spread of influenza such as avoiding large crowds and asking people to walk to work when possible.


This commentary exposed how efforts were made to uncover some “hidden mysteries” about the influenza virus. For example, in 1997, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) identified genetic material from the 1918 influenza in the frozen remains of a Native Alaskan victim of the disease, and in 1999 the AFIP reported that their researchers had determined that the 1918 virus apparently evolved in mammals.

This website provided quite a few examples of how the government acted because of the flood of patients sickened by influenza. This included opening a dispensary where flu victims with signed notes from their doctors could acquire carefully measured quantities of alcoholic beverages, which was thought to be a preventive medicine.

The Spread of Influenza During the Pandemic of 1918 in British India. Web. Michigan State University, 2014. 29 May 2016 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGvceuG_bRI>

This video showed us how influenza spread throughout India in 1918 and how many people it infected.


This website gave us information about the influenza pandemics of 1580, 1729, 1732, 1761, 1780, 1830, and 1889.


This page had six quotes that told us about the impact of the pandemic (not enough beds, bedding, or clothes), the precautions taken (masks, disinfectants etc.), the symptoms of influenza (pneumonia, mahogany spots over the cheek bones, cyanosis extending from their ears and spreading all over the face etc.), and the knowledge the medical community had in 1918.