

# The 1918 Flu 100 Years Later

Hemagglutinin 1, Neuraminidase 1

April 2018

## Des Moines

Fall 1918- the local Board of Health **closed** all churches, schools and other places of congregation. Residents were required to wear **face masks**. Many other cities imposed similar **rules**.

## Marajo Island

The only place in the world **without** a single reported case of flu.

## Iowa

Fall 1918- The Iowa Board of Health **"quarantined"** the entire state, forcing all public gathering places to close. From 1918-1919 more than **6,000** people died and more than **93,000** were infected.

## Spain

The 1918 flu was known as the **Spanish Flu** because Spanish newspapers were one of the first to **openly report** high rates of flu. Spain was a **neutral** party in WWI; reporting in countries involved in WWI was more censored.

## United States

Approximately **675,000** deaths from 1918-1919 due to flu. More U.S. soldiers died from the 1918 flu than were killed in battle during **WWI**.

## Kansas, France, China

**Origins** of the 1918 flu are **unknown**. Experts have hypothesized that the pandemic started in Kansas, France, China or other areas.

## Virus Identification

Professor Hultin traveled to **Alaska** in **1997** to obtain tissue from the **frozen bodies** of 1918 flu victims. With this tissue, the genes of 1918 flu were partially sequenced, indicating it was an **H1N1** influenza virus. Full genetic sequencing was done in **2005**.

## Worldwide

Over **50,000,000** deaths worldwide from 1918-1919. Unlike typical flu viruses, the 1918 flu preferentially infected and killed **healthy young adults**; almost half of all deaths were those **20-40 years** old.

## Flu Vaccine

The flu vaccine was not **invented** until the **1940s**. Today you can protect yourself by getting your flu vaccine **every year!**

