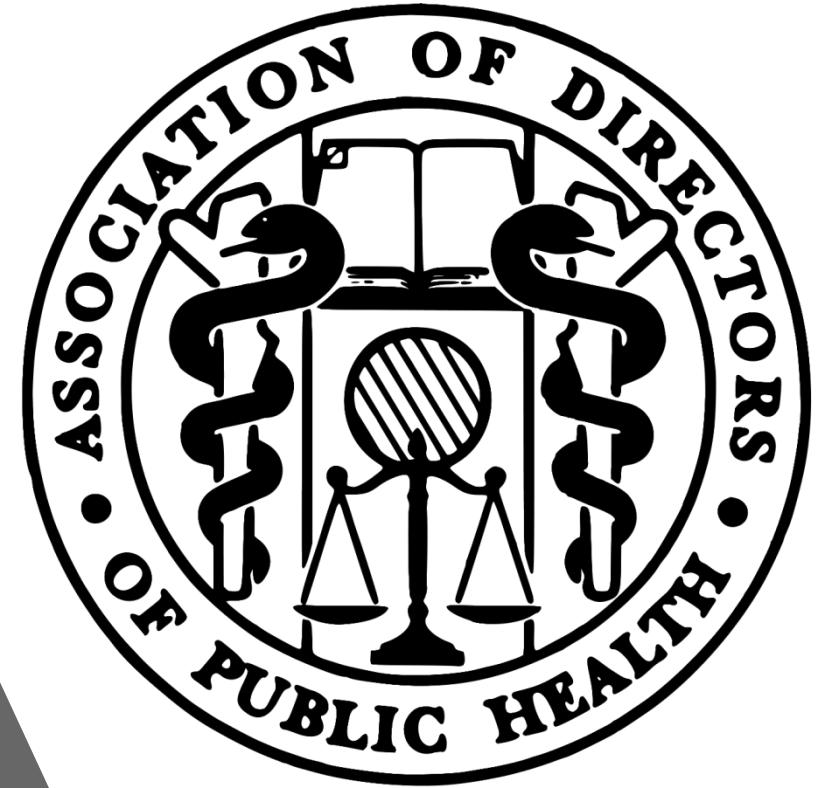


Tim Allison

The Spanish Influenza Pandemic 1918-19



SEX IS THE BEST MEDICINE Aussie flu could be cured by having SEX because passion boosts the immune system, experts claim

A study at Wilkes University in Pennsylvania has shown how the body's immune system is boosted when having sex as it produces more of the Immunoglobulin A antibody

By John Shammass

13th January 2018, 1:45 pm | Updated: 13th January 2018, 4:05 pm



1 COMMENTS

BRITS struck down with the Aussie flu can get on the mend... by having sex, according to experts.

A study at Wilkes University in Pennsylvania has shown how the body's immune system is boosted when having sex as it produces more Immunoglobulin A.



As the two friends wandered through the snow on their way home, Piglet grinned to himself, thinking how lucky he was to have a best friend like Pooh.



Pooh thought to himself:
“If the pig sneezes,
he’s fucken dead.”



I had a little bird,
And its name was Enza
I opened the window
And in flew Enza



A Centenary Review of the Spanish Influenza



“Yet while history never repeats itself, it can still act as an echo chamber of horrors”

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· MCMXIV · MCMXIX ·




Where did it
start?

- On the Western Front
- In the Mid-West
- In China
- In Spain



The Times, 31 May 1918

The Spanish Ambassador in London stated yesterday that the epidemic which has broken out in Spain is not of a serious character. The illness presents the symptoms of influenza with slight gastric disturbance.—*Reuter.*



What was it?

- Influenza A: H1N1
- Avian origin likely and could have circulated via pigs
- One of many epidemics of influenza
- Nature of disease poorly understood at the time

How did it
spread?

Normal mechanism of spread for
influenza virus

Crowded military camps helped
spread the virus

Population movements due to war

Usual movement of people and
world trade

THE SPANISH EPIDEMIC.

700 DEATHS IN TEN DAYS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT).

MADRID, JUNE 2.

The unknown disease which appeared in Madrid a fortnight ago spread with remarkable rapidity. Owing to its benign character it was at first, together with its victims, the subject of much good-natured badinage and pleasant writing in the newspapers. To-day the complaint has passed the joking stage.

It is reported that there are well over 100,000 victims in Madrid alone, and the numbers are increasing daily. It has reached most of the provincial capitals and Morocco, where it has attacked the Spanish garrison. So rapid has been its advance, especially in thickly populated centres, that the public services have been seriously disorganized. In barracks, Government offices, schools, factories, &c., where human beings live in close contact, the victims number 30 or 40 per cent. Two hundred and fifty sailors were disembarked from the squadron at Vigo for treatment in hospital. The tramway service in Madrid was reduced, and the telegraph service was temporarily disorganized for lack of employees, while the medical service and stores proved insufficient to cope with the demands upon them.

The complaint attacks all sorts and conditions of men; King Alfonso was ill for two days, and among the victims are Count Romanones and Señor Dato and other leading politicians.



Who did people blame?



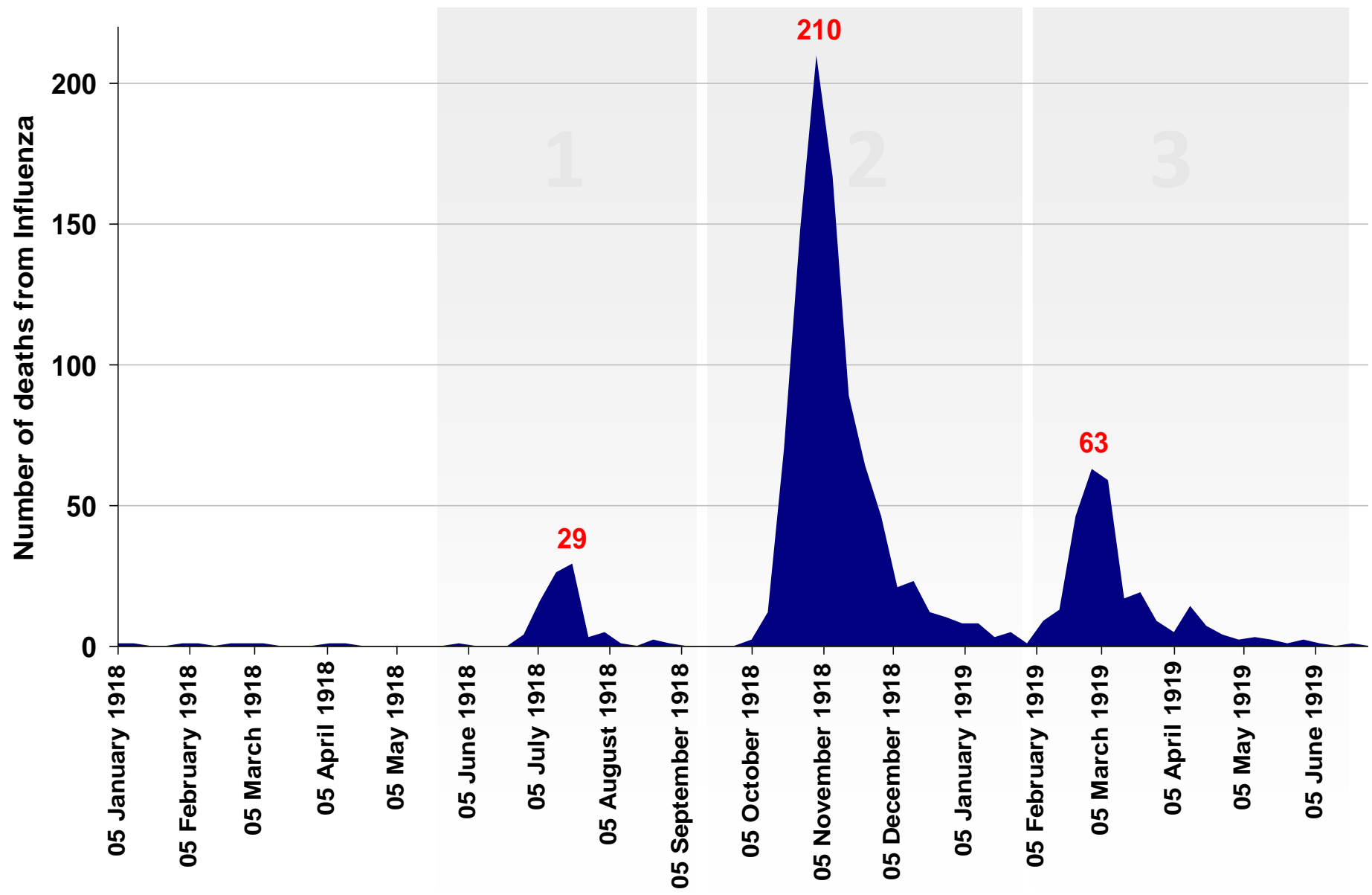


What were its effects?

- Three principal waves
- A large part of the world's population infected
- Variable severity
- Unusual pattern of mortality with a peak among young adults
- Possible over-reaction of immune system & cytokine storm
- Classic symptom of heliotrope cyanosis
- Possibly as many as 80 million deaths



Flu Deaths in Hull (1918-1919)



Prophylactic vaccine for influenza supplied to medical practitioners on request.

In several instances bodies of persons who had died from influenza were removed to the Mortuary, owing to the lack of accommodation at home.

Table showing, week by week, the number of deaths from Influenza Pneumonia, Broncho-Pneumonia and Bronchitis during 1918 and the Six Months ended June 28th, 1919.

1918.					1918.				
Week ended.	Influenza.	Pneumonia.	Broncho-Pneumonia.	Bronchitis.	Week ended.	Influenza.	Pneumonia.	Broncho-Pneumonia.	Bronchitis.
Jan. 5th	1	8	-	5	July 6th	16	5	4	12
" 12th	1	5	6	9	" 13th	26	7	6	6
" 19th	-	4	1	14	" 20th	29	2	8	6
" 26th	-	2	-	6	" 27th	3	6	3	8
Feb. 2nd	1	2	2	12	Aug. 3rd	5	2	-	5
" 9th	1	2	10	10	" 10th	1	3	2	4
" 16th	-	3	13	9	" 17th	-	-	1	3
" 23rd	1	2	11	12	" 24th	2	3	1	1
Mar. 2nd	1	4	7	14	" 31st	1	1	2	2
" 9th	1	4	9	13	Sept. 7th	-	1	-	1
" 16th	-	4	8	11	" 14th	-	7	1	7
" 23rd	-	7	9	6	" 21st	-	3	2	3
" 30th	-	5	10	6	" 28th	-	1	1	3
Apl. 6th	1	5	5	8	Oct. 5th	2	7	1	2
" 13th	1	5	4	6	" 12th	12	7	4	5
" 20th	-	2	2	15	" 19th	70	13	8	11
" 27th	-	7	6	8	" 26th	148	35	11	28
May 4th	-	-	3	4	Nov. 2nd	210	40	22	34
" 11th	-	3	6	6	" 9th	167	13	20	19
" 18th	-	-	5	4	" 16th	89	7	18	19
" 25th	-	2	3	4	" 23rd	64	4	6	21
June 1st	1	4	1	2	" 30th	46	3	5	11
" 8th	-	-	9	2	Dec. 7th	21	4	3	12
" 15th	-	3	2	3	" 14th	23	3	2	9
" 22nd	-	5	7	3	" 21st	12	6	7	7
" 29th	4	2	3	2	" 28th	10	4	4	11

THE HAGUE, JULY 3.

"Spanish influenza" is increasing in Germany to an alarming extent. Many large industries in Berlin are suffering from the illness of their employees. In two weeks the number of patients on the books of the Berlin local sickness insurance office has increased from 16,000 to 18,000. From 200 to 300 new patients are reported daily.

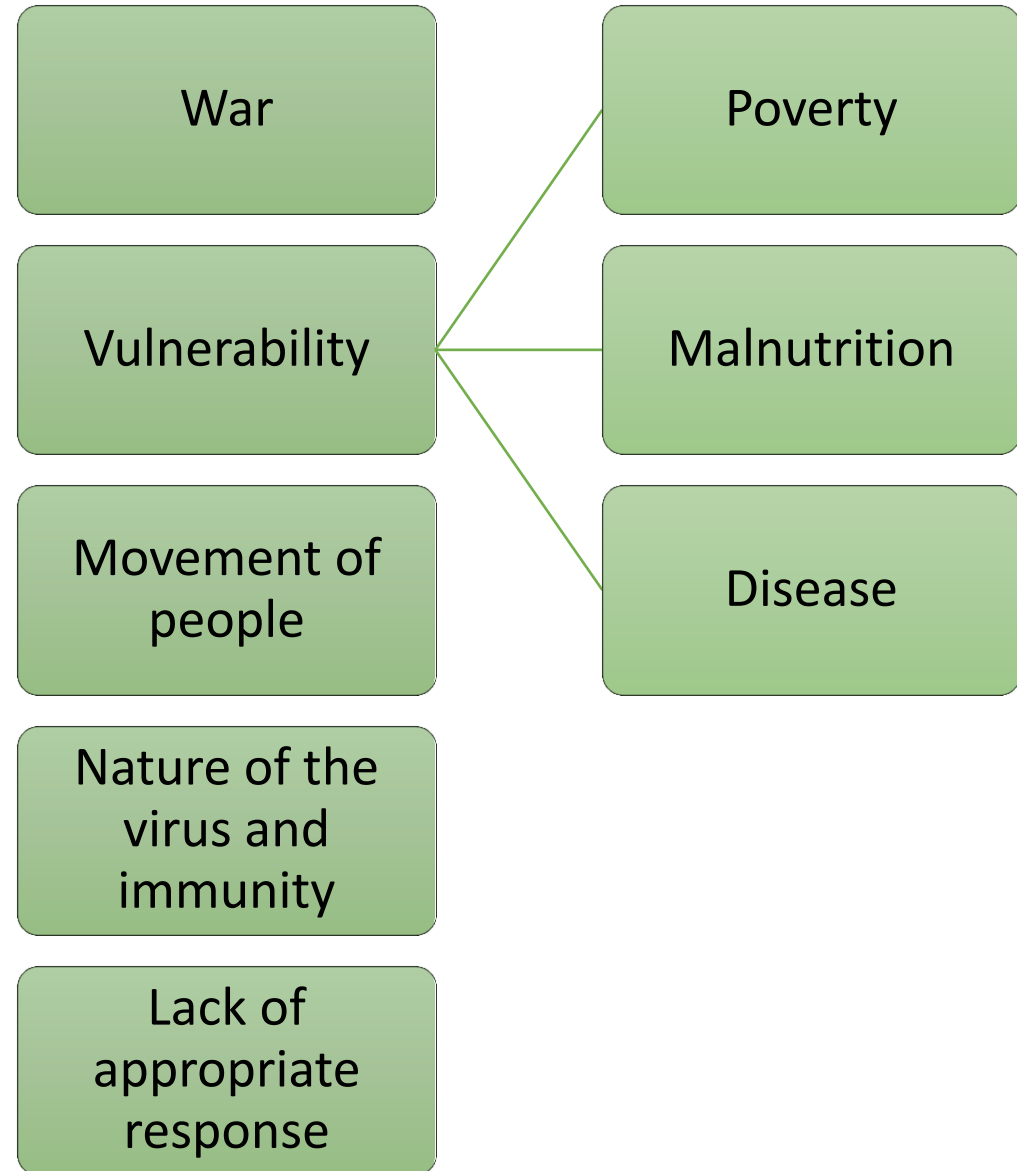
In the greater part of Bavaria "Spanish influenza" prevails, and cases are increasing daily in Munich. The epidemic is also reported from Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Ingolstadt, Landshut, and various other places. Fifty workwomen are suffering from influenza in the great factory of Nieder Sedlitz, near Dresden.

Another Berlin report says that a large number of patients suffering from influenza were received on Monday into the larger Berlin hospitals. The Charité rejected 50 slight cases and retained about 10. One whole department of the Charité, comprising some 30 beds, has been closed owing to the danger of infection. Another Berlin hospital admitted 35 influenza cases on Monday. The malady has caused many gaps among the workers employed in the public services. All the women clerks and other female employees in a branch of one big bank are incapacitated.

The Berlin Municipal medical authority reports that the malady is of quite a light character and there is no ground for uneasiness.

A Danzig telegram reports the appearance of the malady in the Danzig garrison hospital.

Why was it so deadly?

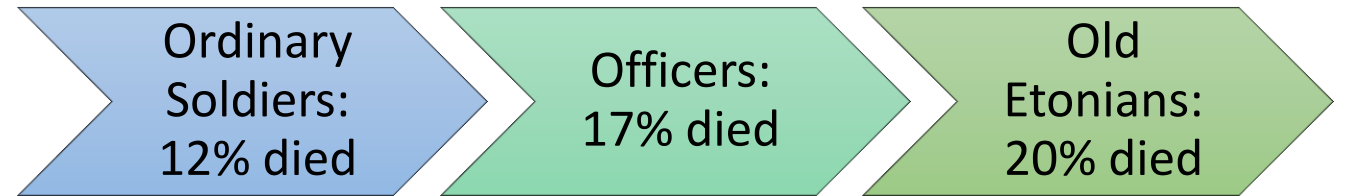




Who did it affect?

- Everyone to some extent
- From Walt Disney to Lawrence of Arabia
- Significant affects among the poor
- Military camps and malnourished badly affected
- High mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa and India
- Catastrophe for Inuit communities

Deaths in the
Great War
show a
different
health
inequalities
pattern



How was it controlled?

Self-medication and supportive care at home

Primary and secondary health care, but staff shortages

Attempts at vaccination

Hygiene, Masks and disinfection

Control of public events

Quarantine, for example in Australia

BBC



What was its legacy?

Largely forgotten

Effects on Great War armies

Effects on Russian civil war

Impact on India

What about individuals – Woodrow Wilson, David Lloyd George or Katherine Anne Porter?

Scientific developments

Still a reminder of risks to haunt those in authority and affect decision making

TO THE MEMORY OF
THE VICTIMS OF
THE 1918 INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

This memorial marks the final resting place
of many of the 1,128 men, women and children of Auckland
who died as a result of New Zealand's worst epidemic
which peaked in November 1918,
killing a total of 8,573 New Zealanders.

Particular respect is paid to doctors, nurses and citizen volunteers
whose selfless efforts to aid the sick
resulted in their own untimely deaths.

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Approaches to Spanish Influenza

- Blame others
- Ignore it
- Rely on technology
- Disregard effective interventions
- Let the poor suffer
- Do not respect it
- Forget about it

So what?



Diseases flourish
at times of
population stress

The poor are
likely to suffer
most

Technological
solutions may not
be the answer

Traditional public
health can be
effective

Unexpected new
threats can and
will emerge

The power of
nature must be
respected

Never forget