

# Pandemics: 1918 Spanish Flu and COVID-19

## Spanish Flu 1918: Part

### 1

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America

#### **John's diary**

7 days before my tenth birthday 8:00 PM 9/28/1918: I felt happy after I came back from the parade celebrating the return of soldiers from WW1 and 200,000 people showed up. Dad had said he had some concerns about going to the parade because he had patients with the influenza virus and they were warned not to celebrate the parade. Today is a Sunday and my dad was working at Penn University Hospital. I went to the parade with my mother.

My tenth birthday 7:00 AM 10/5/1918: I peered over my dad's newspaper and saw something about Krusen, the director of the Department of Health and Charities in Philadelphia. It said "What are they trying to do, scare everybody to death? The fear of Influenza is creating a panic ... Steer clear of it, therefore and talk of cheerful things - of health for instance, instead of disease." Now I'm confused because my dad wants to stop the spread of the virus, but they don't care a thing about the virus.

21 days after my tenth birthday 7:00 AM 10/26/1918: Finally, Philadelphia is taking precautions. My school had closed on the sixteenth. Today, there was an ice hockey match and the coach of the Philly Quakers is hospitalised. The match was Philly Quakers against Georgia Tech and it was on an empty Franklin Field.

26 days after my tenth birthday 7:00 AM 10/31/1918: I was sad that we couldn't have the halloween parade or Halloween. Just a few minutes ago I heard my dad would have to go to the hospital and get treated because he has the Influenza. My mother has been preparing 50 masks a day and she started a week ago. She

had already given the masks to all the hospital staff and some others. Now I'm scared of the unknown.

Dharavi, Mumbai, Maharashtra,  
India

### **Shiv's diary**

May 29th 1918: Today all of Mumbai and India were happy. Today soldiers who were fighting in Britain from India were returning home on a boat.

June 10th 1918: The ship that was there on the twenty-ninth stayed for 48 hours. Today in the newspaper it said seven police sepoy's who were posted at the docks were hospitalised with what appeared to be Influenza.

August 11th 1918: Sadly, today I found out that my younger brother has the Influenza and in the newspapers I found out that Gandhiji has the same virus. I hope that my brother gets better and it doesn't spread to the rest of my family. It will be difficult because I live in a small slum home with a lot of family members.

## COVID-19 Pandemic: Part 2

Queens, New York, New York, United States of America

### **James's diary**

3/1/2020: Today, came the first case of Covid-19 in New York City. It was from a 39 year-old healthcare worker from Manhattan who came back recently from Iran. This came one day after the first case of Covid-19 in the United States of America in Seattle. I found that on the internet.

3/16/2020: My school closed on the earliest day it could close. Also Governor Andrew M. Cuomo probably will declare a state of emergency and a shelter in place order. On the last day of going to school they explained why it was safer to do on-line schooling and facts about the CoronaVirus.

3/31/2020: The governor's brother has got Covid-19. I'm starting to get scared of the CoronaVirus.

4/16/2020: Tomorrow after 8:00 PM all people 2 and older will have to wear a mask, the governor of New York tweeted. Since my dad is a police officer he is scared of the virus because 20% of the police force has Covid-19.

## Milan, Lombardy, Italy

### Leonardo's diary

2/24/2020: A case of CoronaVirus happened on the twentieth in Lombardi. Two cases in Rome also popped up. Also, they had suspended flights to China on the thirty-first of January. Another thing was that yesterday the Venice carnival and other carnivals were canceled. My soccer match and other soccer matches were canceled too. This must be bad.

3/4/2020: Today, schools and universities closed including my school. Now there are 3,089 cases in Italy.

3/9/2020: There is now a nationwide lockdown and 9,172 cases have been detected. Now, my 99 year old great-grandfather is ill and we had to rush him to the hospital. I'm hoping that he recovers and doesn't die and that he can go back home. We can't visit him in the hospital though.

## The Two Pandemics: Similar but Different

Some differences between the 1918 Spanish flu and the COVID-19 pandemic are:

- The 1918 Spanish flu affected both the young and the old, but the CoronaVirus affects/affected the old more.
- 90% of people affected by the 1918 Spanish Flu were under 65 worldwide.
- 69% of people affected by the CoronaVirus are under 65 in the U.S.
- 80% of people who have died from Covid-19 are 65 and older in the U.S.
- There were no tests for 1918 Spanish Flu at the time, but now there are many tests for CoronaVirus.

- There was no vaccine for 1918 Spanish Flu, but people dove right into making a vaccine for CoronaVirus.

We can learn the same things from both pandemics: **Social Distance. Stay at Home. Wear a Mask. Stay Safe. Keep Yourself and Others Protected from Viruses.**