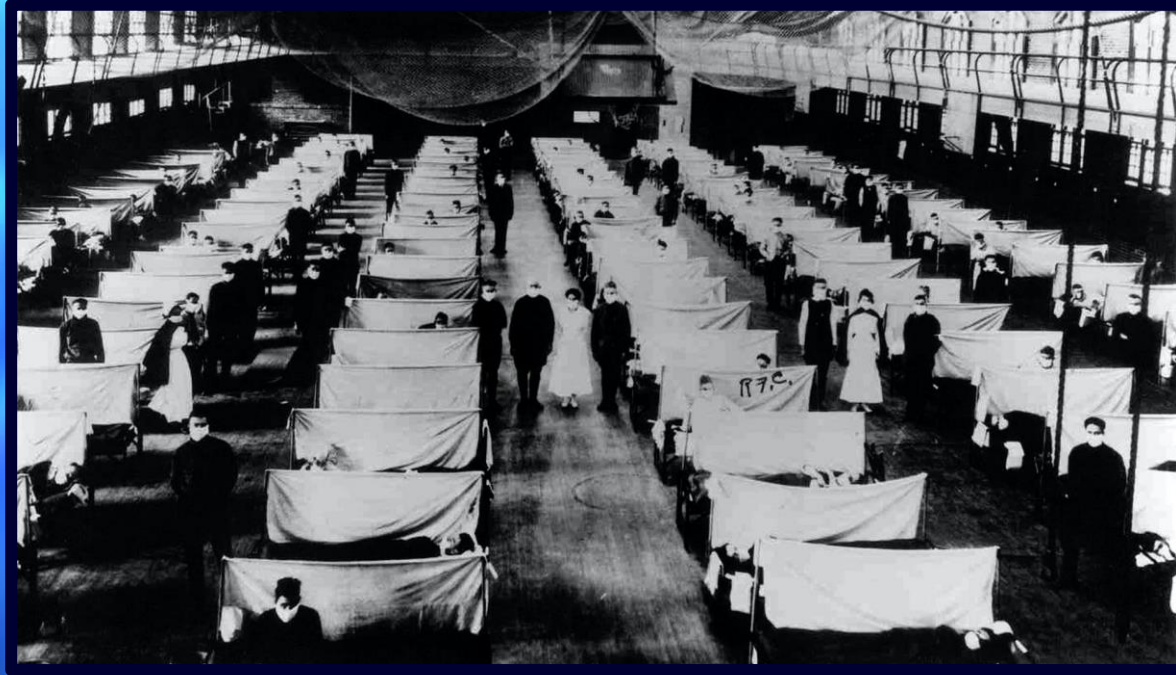


# *Ministering to the Community in a Time of Crisis*



## 1918 Influenza

[Outrunningthehorses.com](http://Outrunningthehorses.com)

# Outrunningthehorses.com

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- These PowerPoint Presentations are written and provided to prepare the Body of Christ for disasters such as the current pandemic
- These trainings are meant to enable people to safely care for themselves and minister to their neighbors
- By being properly equipped we are then able to bring the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ into the situation
- For more information, please visit [outrunningthehorses.com](http://outrunningthehorses.com)

# Objectives

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- The following topics will be discussed
  - What was the 1918 Influenza
  - High levels of death
  - Social Distancing
  - Healthcare overwhelmed
  - Society devastated
  - 1918 Influenza genome



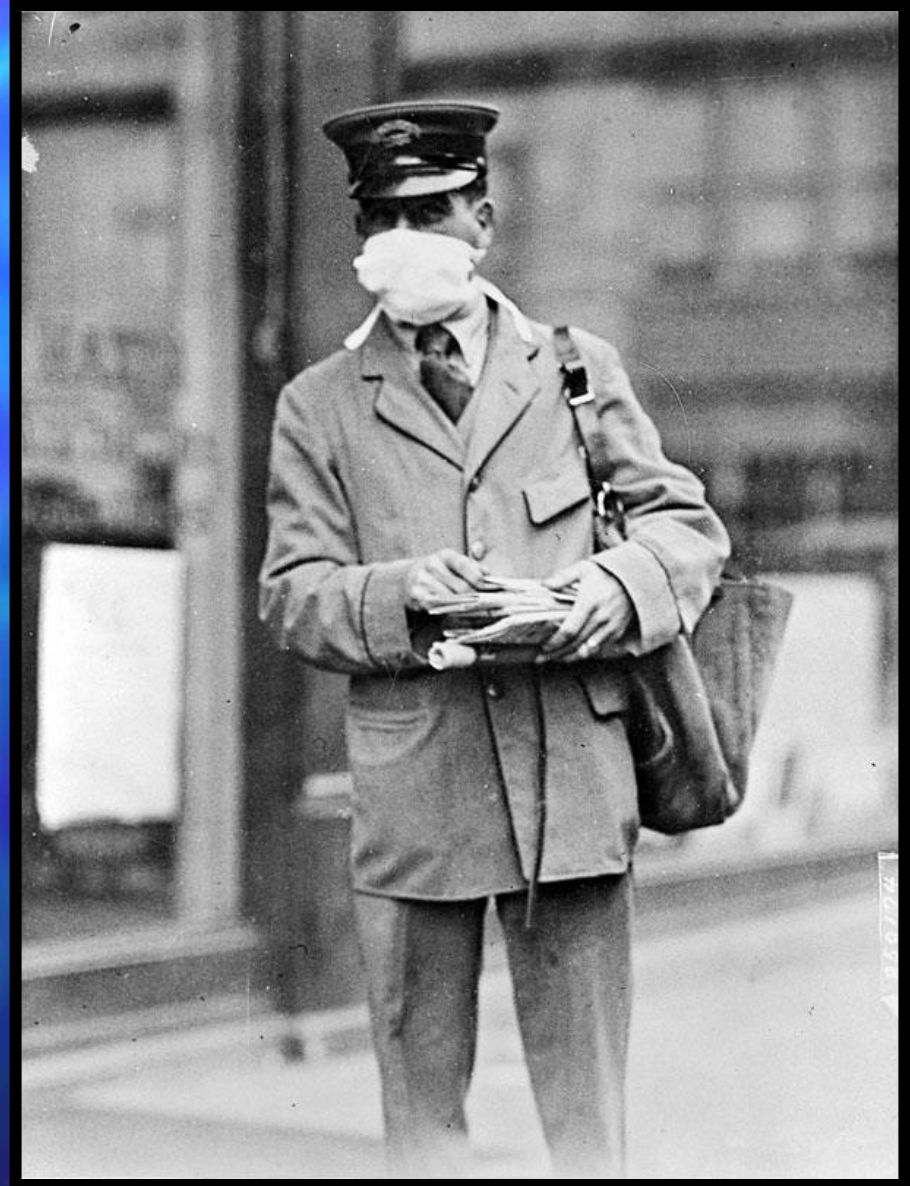
# 1918 Influenza

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- An Avian flu first hosted in birds
- Known as the 1918 Spanish Influenza
  - Due to early news reports
  - Severity in Spain
- H1N1 – Influenza A virus
- A similar strain to H5N1
- Killed via cytokine storm

# 1918 Influenza

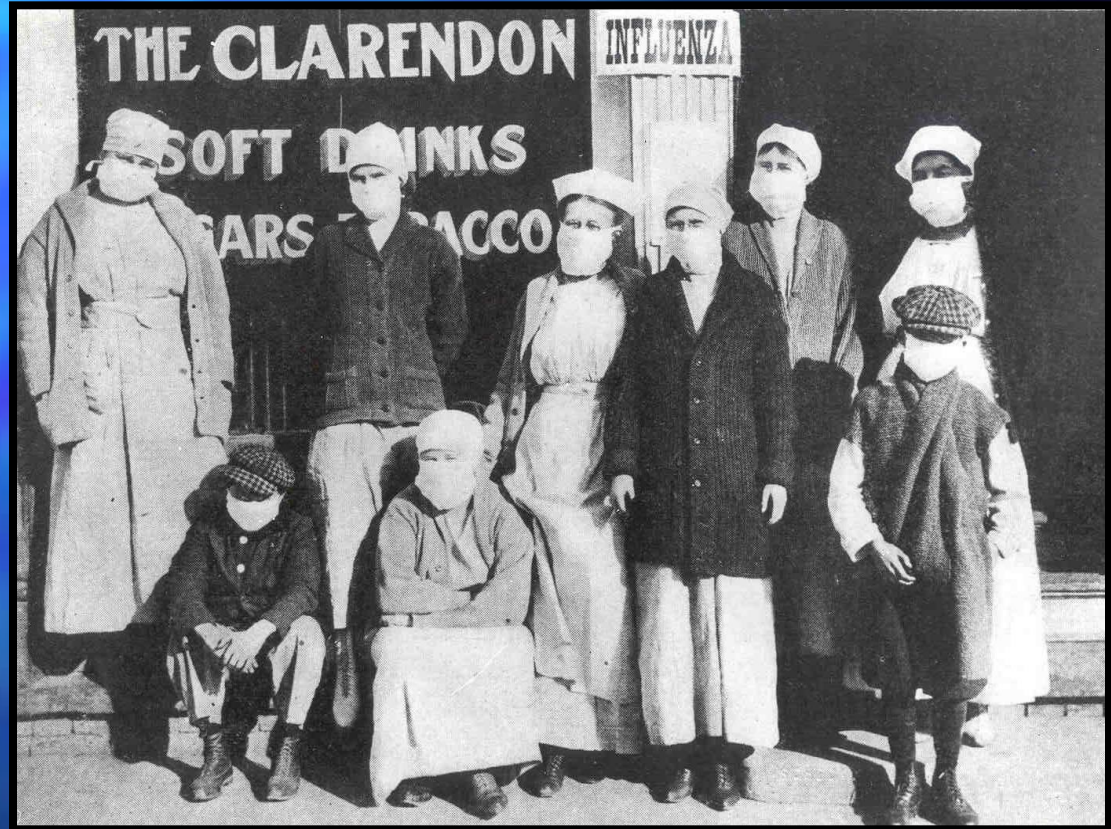
- Swept the United States, Europe and Asia in three waves
- Pandemic lasted 18 months from January 1918 to December 1920





# 1918 Influenza

- It infected over 500 million people around the world
- Including remote Pacific islands and in the Arctic



# 1918 Influenza

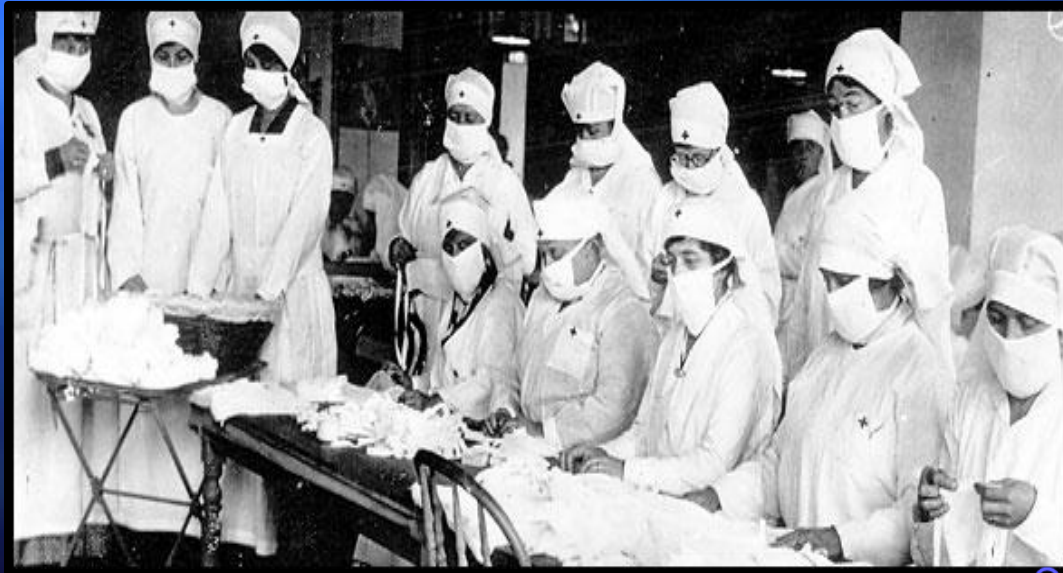
- 50 to 100 million people worldwide were killed
  - Population only 1/3 of what it is today
- Nearly 20% of the world population effected
- Many died within days of the first symptoms





# 1918 Influenza

- Killed more people than World War I
- More died in one year than in the four years of the Black Death of the Bubonic Plague from 1347 to 1351





# 1918 Influenza

- Most succumbed to severe respiratory complications secondary to rapidly progressing pneumonia



“As their lungs filled ... the patients became short of breath and increasingly cyanotic. After gasping for several hours they became delirious and incontinent, and many died struggling to clear their airways of a blood-tinged froth that sometimes gushed from their nose and mouth. It was a dreadful business.”

--Isaac Starr, 3rd year medical student,  
University of Pennsylvania, 1918. (The Influenza)

# 1918 Influenza

- Social Distancing
  - New Laws Enforced
    - Had to wear masks
    - No spitting
    - No holding of hands
    - No public gatherings





# 1918 Influenza

- Social Distancing
  - Philadelphia – September 28, 1918
    - Did not enforce Social Distancing
    - Liberty Loan parade
    - Prompted huge outbreak of flu in the city



# 1918 Influenza

- Social Distancing
  - Philadelphia – September 28, 1918
    - Hardest hit city in the United States
    - More than 47,000 cases





# 1918 Influenza

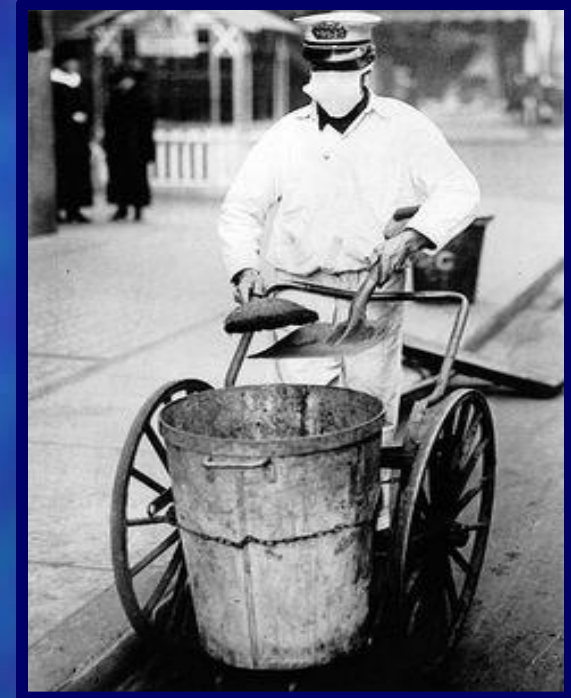
- Society Devastated
  - Everyday life was disrupted
    - Schools, churches, and stores were closed
    - Deliveries were not taking place
    - People were out of work





# 1918 Influenza

- Society Devastated
  - Everyday life was disrupted
    - Basic services were hindered
      - Garbage collection
      - Mail delivery
      - Not enough farmers to harvest crops
      - State and local health departments closed
        - Hampering efforts to chronicle spread of virus



# 1918 Influenza

- Society Devastated
  - High levels of death
    - Catastrophic effects upon urban populations
    - There were no funeral services
    - Difficult to keep up with burials



# 1918 Influenza

- Society Devastated
  - People were dying sometimes two in a bed
    - Entire families were wiped out
      - Countless widows
      - Countless orphans
      - Many died for want of basic life needs





# 1918 Influenza

- Society Devastated
  - High levels of death
    - Funeral parlors were overwhelmed
    - Not enough grave diggers
    - Bodies piled up
  - Some had to dig graves for their own family members



# 1918 Influenza

- Society Devastated
  - Pounding of boards for coffins became a normal sound in cities



# 1918 Influenza

- Civil groups formed to dig mass graves





# 1918 Influenza

- Society Devastated
  - High levels of death
    - Children in remote Alaskan village Nushagak survived – however, their parents did not



# 1918 Influenza

- Healthcare Overwhelmed



# 1918 Influenza



## ■ Society Devastated

### ■ High levels of death

- Large numbers frightened
- Critically ill overwhelmed healthcare providers
- Mortuaries and cemeteries overwhelmed
- Many corpses remained unburied at home



# 1918 Influenza



- Healthcare Overwhelmed
  - Many doctors and nurses were serving in war effort
  - Limited scientific knowledge
    - Effective treatment and prevention methods not fully utilized
  - Many cities and public health officials were ill equipped to deal with the health crisis

# 1918 Influenza



- Healthcare Overwhelmed
  - The healthcare providers who remained
    - Became ill themselves treating the sick, and some died
    - Stayed home in fear and to care for their own families
    - Medical students were engaged
    - Some hospitals had beds available, but no nurses

# 1918 Influenza

## ■ Healthcare Overwhelmed

### ■ A call to volunteers

- Civilian doctors unable to serve overseas
- Dentists authorized to practice as physicians
- Medical students graduated early
- Retired doctors/nurses called upon
- Student nurses
- Out of work teachers instructed
- Lay people instructed





# 1918 Influenza



- Healthcare Overwhelmed
  - Hospitals inundated with patients
    - Frequently turned people away
    - Lengthened staff hours
    - Tasked students with professional duties
    - Discharged the ill
    - Accepted only urgent admissions
    - Makeshift accommodations (hallways, porches, offices, etc...)

# 1918 Influenza

- Healthcare Overwhelmed
  - Stressed doctors did not register cases quickly
    - Paperwork was not maintained properly
    - Cause of death not always correct on death certificate



# 1918 Influenza

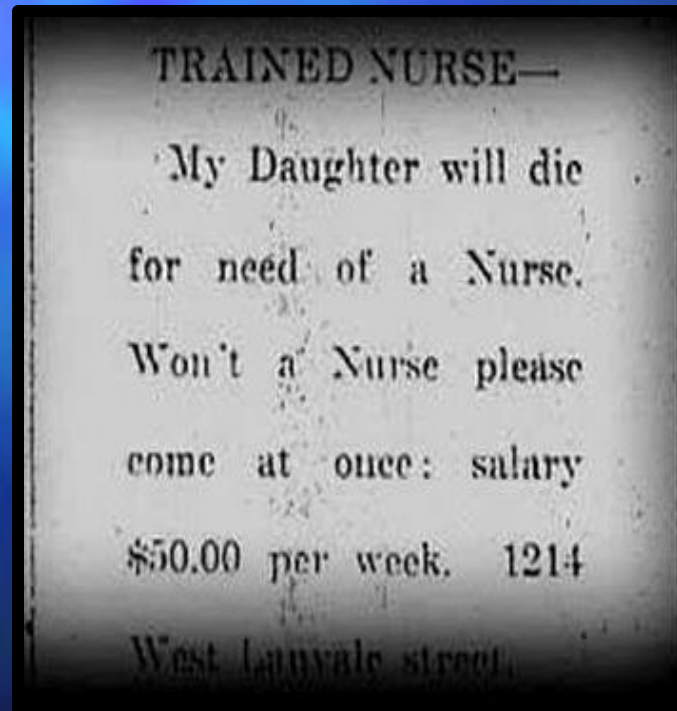
- Healthcare Overwhelmed
  - Shortage of basic supplies (linens, mattresses, bedpans, etc.)
  - Gymnasiums, churches, other spaces served as emergency hospitals
  - Many people languished at home





# 1918 Influenza

- Healthcare Overwhelmed
  - Many people died for want of good, basic nursing care



# 1918 Influenza

- Healthcare Overwhelmed
  - Calls went out for volunteers
    - Many women rose to the challenge
    - Put their lives on the line



# 1918 Influenza

- Healthcare Overwhelmed
  - Calls went out for volunteers – American Red Cross local chapters
    - Established kitchens
    - Houses for convalescence
    - Transported the sick
    - Transported bodies
    - Transported supplies
    - Recruited more than 18,000 nurses and volunteers





# 1918 Influenza

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- Healthcare Overwhelmed
  - Calls went out for volunteers – American Red Cross local chapters
    - Distributed pamphlets and circulars on prevention and care
    - Directed chapters to form committees to work with local authorities
    - Provided more than \$2 million in equipment and supplies to hospitals

# 1918 Influenza

- 1918 Influenza Genome
  - Jeffery Taubenberger, MD, PhD, NIAID
    - Sequenced genome from specimens dug up from below the permafrost in 1997
    - Specimen from an obese woman whose extra fat protected lungs



# 1918 Influenza

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- 1918 Influenza Genome
  - Jeffery Taubenberger, MD, PhD, NIAID
    - Sequenced entire genome
    - Took ten years
    - Very “bird like virus”
    - A number of mutations in genes to adapt to humans
    - Similar to H5N1 virus today



# 1918 Influenza

- 1918 Influenza Pandemic has been cited as the most devastating epidemic in recorded world history

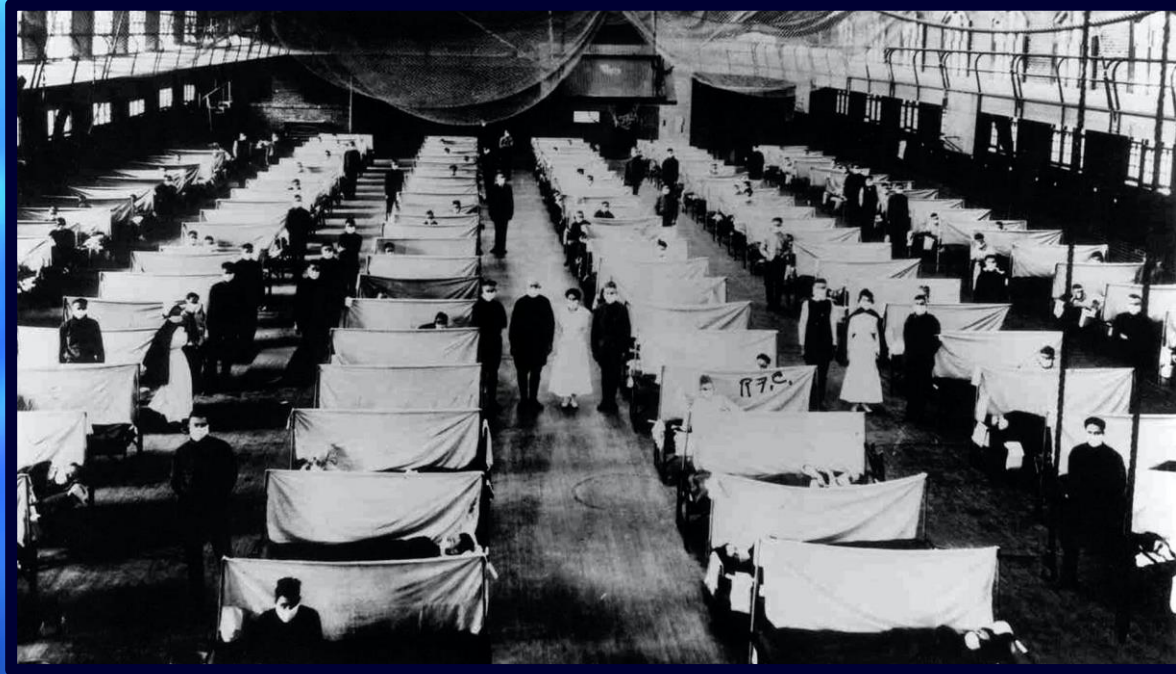


# 1918 Influenza

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## ■ Think About It

- If a pandemic were to occur that was as lethal as the 1918 Influenza, what areas of society do you think would be affected?
- How would these effects transpire to you and your daily life?
- In what ways do think you might prepare to enable you to function through the devastation?



Questions?





**Questions**

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For more presentations like this  
or for more information  
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