

# 1918-1919 Influenza Pandemic Summary: Los Angeles, CA

<i>CITY</i>	<i>PEAK PERIOD</i>	<i>INFECTED</i>	<i>DEATHS</i>	<i>DEATH RATE</i>
<b>Los Angeles, CA</b>	<b>SEP 22-FEB 6*</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>494:100K</b>

*\*Ban was lifted on DEC 2 but all schools did not reopen until FEB 6.*

## **Date Summaries:**

- SEP 22-1<sup>st</sup> civilian case
- SEP 27-Influenza made reportable disease
- OCT 10-Medical advisory board meets
- OCT 11-LA state of emergency declared, schools closed, public gatherings banned including public funerals, movie houses, theaters, pool rooms, and other public entertainments effective 6:00 PM.
- NOV 9-Staggered business hours approved
- MID NOV-Infections dropped and hovering around 500 per day
- DEC 2-Closure ban lifted
- DEC 10-Schools closed again
- JAN 9-Schools begin opening again
- FEB 6-Final school opened

**Church Closures:** Yes

**Health Official:** Dr. Luther Milton Powers, City Health Commissioner

**Masks:** Recommended not mandated. \*US Surgeon General Rupert Blue asked Powers to NOT issue mask mandate orders.

**Military Connections:** Naval Reserve Station @ LA Harbor, Army Arcadia Balloon School

**Primary Strategies:** Social distancing with bans and closures initially then it was quarantines and masking because they did not want to stress the public with more general closures.

**School Closures:** Yes. (OCT 11-DEC 2 then again from DEC 10-JAN 6 through FEB 6). \*Correspondence instruction was arranged for the 90,000 children in the LA public school system.

**Stats:** Death Rate=494:100K

*\*Article Note References=48*

**Reference:** <https://www.influenzaarchive.org/index.html> (Compilation effort of University of Michigan Center for the History of Medicine; MLibrary; University of Michigan; Centers for Disease Control; National Endowment for the Humanities; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)\**City essay data table summarized by Ron Jones, MS.*

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