

1918-1919 Influenza Pandemic Summary: Seattle, WA

<i>CITY</i>	<i>PEAK PERIOD</i>	<i>INFECTED</i>	<i>DEATHS</i>	<i>DEATH RATE</i>
Seattle, WA	OCT 5-DEC 31	NA	>1,400	414:100K

Date Summaries:

- SEP 20-Health Commissioner addresses unlikely epidemic
- Late SEP-Over 100 cases @ Camp Lewis
- OCT 5-Health Commissioner announces influenza in Seattle, prohibited dances, mandated streetcar and theatre ventilation, ordered police to strictly enforce anti-spitting ordinance.
- OCT 6-Closures of churches, theatres, poolrooms, libraries, entertainment in cafes and restaurants, schools.
- OCT 9-Influenza made reportable disease
- OCT 11-Ship workers inoculated near 100% by STL produced flu vax
- OCT 17-Enforcements intensified
- MID OCT-Nearly 3,500 infected
- OCT 22-Peak announced
- OCT 28-More public health closures & mandatory masking
- NOV 2,3-Full two-day closure order
- NOV 4-Reduced business hours
- NOV 11-War over, ban lift announcement
- NOV 12-Bans lifted including masks
- NOV 14-Schools open
- EARLY DEC-2nd wave
- DEC 5-Quarantine resolution mandates quarantine for those ill.
- DEC 10-Nearly 1,000 quarantine placards posted on STL homes
- Late DEC-2nd surge passes

Church Closures: Yes.

Health Official: Dr. J.S. McBride, Commissioner of Health

Masks: Yes. (OCT 28-NOV 12) *Commissioner also recommended six layer masks instead of standard four layers of gauze. Courthouse records cited decrease in marriages and increased divorces coinciding with mask orders. Mask fines were \$5.00.

Military Connections: Camp Lewis 45 miles south of STL in Pierce County & U of Washington Student Army Training Corps & Student Naval Training Corps

Primary Strategies: Initially, it was closures and strict enforcements then by OCT 28 it was masks.

School Closures: Yes. (OCT 6-NOV 14)

Stats: Death Rate=414:100K, over 1,400 deaths from SEP 1918-FEB 1919

*Article Note References=39

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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