

**Using the 2020-2022 Covid-19 Pandemic to better Understand  
the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-19**

Use the following chart and evidence associated with the Influenza Epidemic of 1918-19 to make direct comparisons between the 2020-2022 Covid-19 Pandemic and the Influenza Epidemic of 1918-19. Be sure to identify both similarities and differences, even subtle differences between the two times. Then use information from the chart to explain how experiencing the Covid-19 Pandemic can help a person better understand the Influenza pandemic. What lessons could be learned from the Influenza epidemic that might help society better navigate the Covid pandemic?

Issue	Covid-19 Pandemic	Influenza Pandemic
Quarantine	<p><i>Individuals exposed to someone with Covid-19 were asked to quarantine for 14 days. Those who were sick, even without diagnosis, were asked to stay home. Those with Covid-19 were quarantined until 10 days after symptoms ended. During heavy outbreaks entire communities went on lock-down. Social gatherings were limited to immediate family. Elderly in assisted living centers were not allowed to receive visitors. By 2022 those who had been vaccinated or who tested negative for Covid-19 did not have such strict quarantine guidelines.</i></p>	
Masks	<p><i>Masks were required in public places and outside when 6-feet of social distancing was impossible during periods when Covid-19 was spreading rapidly. The utility of masks was debated, with medical professionals promoting mask-use and politically conservative individuals, including President Trump, discounting their effectiveness. Volunteers produced millions of masks and businesses experimented with new mask designs. New variants of Covid caused renewed mask mandates into 2022.</i></p>	
Economy	<p><i>The economy suffered as the nation and communities went on lock-down. Some businesses, such as restaurants, bars, and airlines suffered as a result of mandatory closures, travel bans, and social distancing requirements. Unemployment skyrocketed. Renters were evicted. Government "stimulus" legislation supported some industries, protected renters, and gave families stimulus checks to revive the economy. By 2022 the economy rebounded as vaccinated individuals returned to work. Worker shortages continued in many industries and workers demanded higher wages. The "great resignation" occurred as workers walked away from their jobs.</i></p>	

Closures	<p><i>During lock downs restaurants, bars, theatres, barbershops, factories, and “nonessential” businesses were forced to close, with debate over the meaning of “nonessential.” Schools were closed and went to “virtual” online classrooms for months. Religious services were banned or were held “virtually.” Stores that remained opened, such as grocery stores, limited the numbers of customers and took measures to protect employees and patrons. As vaccination rates increased in 2022 and the spread of Covid slowed, forced closures ended, businesses reopened, and travel resumed.</i></p>	
Public Reaction	<p><i>During the early months of the pandemic people panicked. Grocery stores sold out of toilet paper, flour, water bottles, and many other essentials. Store shelves were left empty as supply chains were disrupted. People created memes to make light of the challenges associated with the pandemic. Some people claimed the pandemic was fabricated, a government conspiracy, or exaggerated to prevent Trump’s reelection. Anti-Asian sentiment grew because of Covid’s origination in China. In 2022 widespread inflation occurred as a result of supply chain issues and increased spending.</i></p>	
Sickness	<p><i>People who were sick, from Covid or other illness, were shunned. Some people with the disease exhibited no symptoms but spread the virus. Super-spreader events were publicized. Contact tracing was used to try to track outbreaks. Covid spiked after holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Symptoms included shortness of breath, cough, fever, tiredness, loss of taste and smell, and muscle aches. Elderly in assisted living centers died in greater numbers. 2041 Utahns, 540,000 Americans, and 2.69 million people worldwide had perished by March 19, 2021. One year later the totals were 4,545 Utahns, 926,000 Americans, and 6.07 million people worldwide.</i></p>	
Medical Care	<p><i>First responders, emergency room doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel worked long hours, were placed at health risk, and observed the traumatic deaths of lonely patients. Intensive care units reached full capacity during major outbreaks. Ventilators were in short supply. Vaccination research was fast-tracked by the Trump administration and distributed by the Biden administration. Rumors of the effectiveness of unresearched treatments spread. By early 2022 most Americans had been vaccinated with a second booster shot and new treatments had been discovered. Many Americans refused to be vaccinated fearing a government/pharmaceutical conspiracy</i></p>	

1. How can experiencing the Covid-19 Pandemic can help a person better understand the Influenza pandemic?
2. What lessons could be learned from the Influenza epidemic that might help society better navigate the Covid-19 pandemic?