

Name:

Using the Covid-19 Pandemic to better Understand the 1918 Flu Pandemic

Instructions:

1. Use this chart and evidence about the Influenza Epidemic of 1918-19 to compare it with the 2020-2022 Covid-19 Pandemic. Be sure to identify both **similarities** and **differences**, even subtle differences, between the two pandemics.
2. Then use information from the chart to answer the reflection questions at the end.

Topic	Covid-19 Pandemic	1918 Flu Pandemic
Sickness and Statistics	• Symptoms of COVID-19 included shortness of breath, cough, fever, tiredness, loss of taste and smell, and muscle aches. • Deaths continued for years. By March 2022, over 4,500 Utahns, 926,000 Americans, and 6.07 million people worldwide had died from the pandemic. • Elderly people died in greater numbers. • By 2022, quarantine guidelines were looser for vaccinated people or people with negative Covid-19 tests. • Disease spiked after holidays and major events. People without major symptoms spread the virus.	
Slowing the Spread/ Staying Healthy	• People who had COVID-19 were quarantined until 10 days after their symptoms were gone. • People who had been exposed to COVID-19 were asked to quarantine for 14 days. Anyone sick at all was isolated. • Masks were often required in public places, and even outside when they could not spread out. • Volunteers made millions of masks. • Government agencies, and others, urged hand-washing, social distancing, and other general precautions. • Rumors about unresearched treatments spread.	
Medical Care	• Medical workers worked long and risky hours. They watched the deaths of lonely patients. • During major outbreaks, ICUs were full and ventilators were scarce. • Vaccination research was sped up. • By early 2022, better treatments were discovered and most Americans had been vaccinated. However, many Americans refused to be vaccinated, fearing conspiracy.	

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Economy and Closures	- Lockdowns meant that restaurants, theatres, factories, and other “nonessential” businesses had to close. Many businesses suffered. - Schools were closed and went online-only for months. - Social gatherings were often banned or limited. Religious services were banned or held virtually. - Many people either lost their jobs or left them. Government “stimulus” money supported many businesses and families. - By 2022, businesses reopened and travel resumed. The economy recovered somewhat, but some struggles remained.	
Public Reaction	- People panicked at first. Grocery stores sold out of toilet paper, flour, water bottles, and other essentials. - People made memes to lighten up the pandemic’s challenges. - Covid-19 became very political. Some people claimed the pandemic was fake or a government conspiracy. - Masks were also debated. Many medical professionals promoted masks, while others (including President Trump) disregarded them. - Anti-Asian sentiment grew because of Covid’s origin in China.	

Reflection Questions

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 have helped society better navigate the Covid-19 pandemic?