

Flu Files News Artifact

For this assignment I found an article in the New York Times from 1918 on September 22nd about the Spanish flu. The article entailed that there were 20 new cases in New York that day which was the lowest recorded in the past three days. Twenty-five other cases were at the Staten Island Marine hospital but was not reported because the cases were from Navy and Army service men that had contracted it from camp and/or on-board ship. The rest of the article went into detail about popular cities such as Chicago, Washington D.C., Boston, etc. and their reports of how many cases there was and how many came from service men. The article also included a section about the symptoms of the Spanish flu such as headaches, fever, joint pains, and acute bronchitis and what to do if you started feeling any of them (bed rest). There was also a portion that included rules given by the surgeon general at the time that include rules that are similar to today's Corona Virus pandemic that we are experiencing such as staying away from crowded places, maintain good physical health, and having caution when using a telephone; not touching lips on phone. In today's current pandemic we are also advised from going to crowded places as well as keeping mutual things we touch to an absolute low to keep from spreading the virus. There was also government censorship when revealing how many cases there was due to it being in army training camps and on-board ships. In today's pandemic we have access to the current count of the virus with the use of the internet. Also, we have the technology today to still be able to go to school amidst the pandemic when back then they most likely had to stop all forms of school until the pandemic ended. Another parallel I found between this historical text and our current times of pandemic is how there is reporting of cases in major cities in this type of media. We still today can look to the news or internet to find out how many cases are new in major cities and back then one way to find out that information was to look at newspapers that had that information such as the New York Times. These are the things I was able to get from the article that I choose and compare to our current pandemic now.

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Historical text:

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/100003742/fulltextPDF/33D676225C0A4B05PQ/1?accountid=14>

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