

SPANISH FLU PANDEMIC



Alberta Government Telephones operators in High River wore compulsory masks during the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic. From left to right: Gladys Stephenson, Cora Stephenson, Addie McDonald and Annie Grisdale.



GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Photo credit: Glenbow Archives NA-964-22. Oct. 24, 1918, shows staff at the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Calgary wearing masks during the Spanish influenza epidemic. To try and slow the outbreak, the province ruled people must wear masks outside their homes

The virus that changed the world!

- Germ theory and the application of hygiene and sanitation made significant improvements on 'crowd' diseases.
- Fall 1918 The influenza epidemic swept the country. By the third wave of the Spanish Flu, people either built immunity to it, or died.
- The Alberta Health board decided that the flu should be treated with quarantine rather than report it as a disease to minimize panic.
- By December, 1918, tens of thousands of Albertan's had caught the disease.
- By 1919, the mortality rate was 34.85/ 1,000 people in Alberta as compared to 3,694 out of 106,000 Aboriginals died in Canada.
- 50,000 Canadians died, most within 6 months. 1/6 Canadians got the disease. In 6 months, the flu killed almost as many as the Great war!
- 50 million people died from the Spanish Flu, that is 3% of the Global population.

UPSET? **Pape's Diapepsin** WILL PUT YOU ON YOUR FEET

Epidemic Influenza

Instructions Regarding Care of Sick Persons

Since thousands of people are nursing influenza patients in the province, the following instructions will be of value:

- 1—**FRESH AIR** is the most essential requisite to the comfort and well-being of patients, no matter how ill.
- 2—**REST** in bed for three days after fever has gone is urged to prevent complications.
- 3—**PNEUMONIA CASES** should not be kept in the same room with uncomplicated influenza cases.
- 4—**NOURISHING FOOD** at regular intervals.
- 5—**Plenty of WATER** or lemonade.
- 6—**GENERAL UNWORRIED SERVICE:** Avoid chattering, nagging or questioning; anticipate wants of sickest patients, convalescents usually

J. G. W.
 H. H.
 H. L.
 W. S.
 D. Ca.
 S. E.
 W. J.
 A. G.
 Lieut.
 Lieut.
 J. S. I.
 E. C.
 Corp.
 J. Am.
 J. P.
 Lieut.
 (Green)
 E. J.
 Captain
 H. J.
 H. Me.
 H. C.
 Wm.
 J. Clai.
 Lieut.
 Lieut.
 Major
 L. A.
 An.
 J. Tui.
 J. A. I.
 G. Or.
 R. A.
 H. O.
 D. Lei.
 H. W.
 Lieut.
 Sergt.
 A. Ma.
 H. L.

Photo credit: Peel's Prairie Provinces Ad00509-2
Published in the Edmonton Bulletin, Nov. 8, 1918.

Did you know? If you did not wear the mask, when you were in public you would receive a \$50.00 fine.

Why is the Spanish Flu called the Spanish flu?

It was first believed to have originated in Spain because they were the first country to report it, but the first known case was reported on March 11, 1918 in Kansas.



Photo credit: Library and Archives Canada PA-025025

The Red Deer Industrial Residential School

- The Red Deer Industrial Residential school was hit hard with the Spanish Flu in 1918 -1919.
- Principal Woodsworth had to deal with the epidemic - almost everyone got sick- staff and students. Every possible space was used for hospital purposes - many died.
- Medical help was minimal or non-existent. Those children who did survive and went home did not want to return.
- On Nov. 15+ 16, 1918, 4 students died from the Spanish Flu and could not be buried at the school because everyone was sick. They were moved to the Red Deer Cemetery.

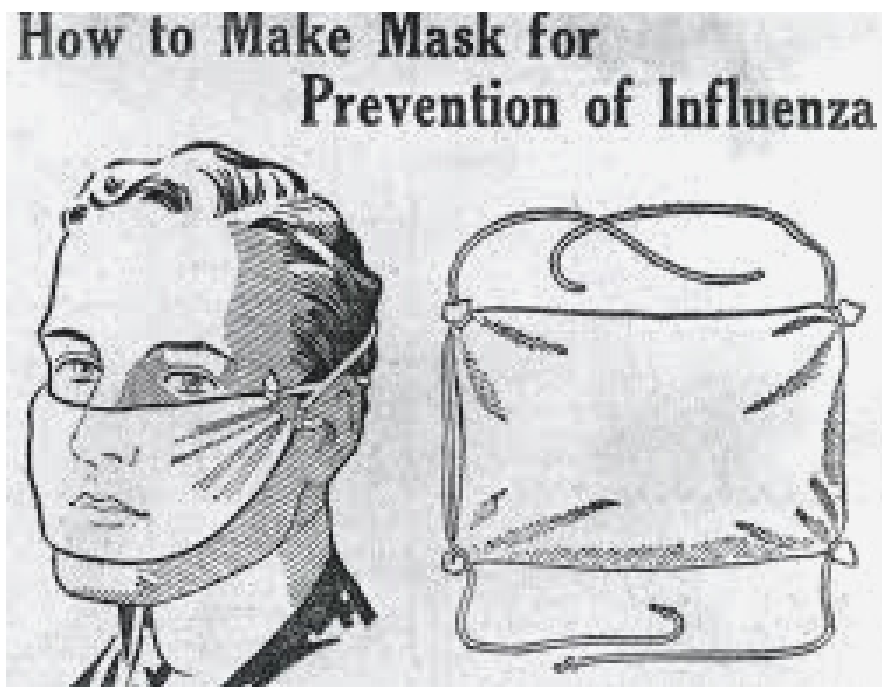
Spanish Flu in Red Deer

- First outbreak in Red Deer was Oct. 23, 1918.
- An isolation hospital was set up in the old Royal North West Mounted Police Barracks.
- Ella Parsons - Dr. Parson's wife - died of Spanish flu in Nov. 1918. She was concerned for her husband and tried to make it easier for her husband. Doctors, nurses and those taking care of the sick were the most vulnerable to get the virus.
- Schools, churches and clubs were closed, healthy family members stayed home or traveled to take care of loved ones. Teachers were pulled into service to help care for the ill, then they got the flu.
- Armistice Day celebrations were postponed because it was too risky to hold public gatherings.

SPANISH FLU KILLED MORE THAN 4 YEARS OF THE GREAT WAR.

54 DEATHS IN RED DEER;
4000 IN ALBERTA

Photo credit: Glenbow Archives NA-4548-5
Detail of poster published in Red Deer Advocate, public service ad from 1918.



PHOTOS TAKEN DURING THE 1918 SPANISH FLU PANDEMIC IN ALBERTA SHOWED THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WEARING WHITE MASKS FOR THEIR SAFETY, AND NURSES AND VOLUNTEERS EAGER TO HELP.



PHOTO CREDIT: GLENBOW ARCHIVES NA-3965-7

Red Deer Museum
mag
+ Art Gallery