INFLUENZA MILESTONES

1917 - 2009











1917

United States enters World War I. U.S. life expectancy is 54 years for women, 48 years for men.



Third wave of pandemic flu activity occurs. Pandemic subsides, but virus (H1N1) continues to circulate seasonally for 38 years.

1957

H2N2 flu virus emerges to trigger a pandemic, replacing the 1918 H1N1 pandemic virus.

1968

H3N2 flu virus emerges to trigger a pandemic, replacing H2N2 virus.

2009

H1N1 viruses distantly related to the 1918 virus emerge to trigger a pandemic.

1918

Spring and fall waves of influenza ("flu") activity cause the average life expectancy in the United States to fall by 12 years.



1930

First isolation of influenza, proving that flu is caused by a virus not a bacterium.



1960

The U.S. Public Health Service recommends annual flu vaccination for people at high risk of serious flu complications.



2005

Genome of the 1918 pandemic flu virus is fully sequenced.





U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention