Influenza

Betsy Lambert
Miscoe Hill School
Grades 6-8


**Unit Overview**

As students work through the activities in this unit they will develop their skills as history detectives as they learn about the history of the 1918 Influenza pandemic, and answer the question, “Why was the CDC so worried about H1N1?” They will study the poster provided by the CDC for schools, along with a selection of primary and secondary sources to develop a document based, informed response to the question.

The varied learning experiences are designed to activate and utilize the students’ multiple intelligences, while providing intellectual challenges at multiple levels of cognitive complexity.

Modifications for English language learners and/or special education students include, but are not limited to providing:

1. Glossary of unfamiliar words found in the texts
2. Highlighted print out of longer sections of reading
3. Simplified or restructured Activities assigned
4. Bi-lingual dictionary or phrase book
5. Graphic organizer for use as a pre-writing tool for the final project
Standards addressed

Rhode Island Grade Span Expectations for Civics & Government and Historical Perspectives GLE/GSE 5 (5-8)– 1, 2

Rhode Island Grade Span Expectations for Reading GLE/GSE (5-8)- 7, 8, 15

Rhode Island Grade Span Expectations for Written and Oral Communication GLE/GSE (5-8)- 6,7,8

Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework US History I 7 and WHII 18

Massachusetts English Language Arts Curriculum Frameworks, Reading and Literature Strand, Standards 8, 13, 14 Composition Strand, Standard 24, Media Strand, Standard 26

Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Frameworks 8

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, The Arts Disciplines: Visual Arts  2

Objectives

- Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the influenza pandemic of 1918, how movements of the military affected the spread of the disease and how it altered life in Rhode Island. The documents and activities contained in this unit are intended to help students better understand the history of disease and disease management.

- Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of how the interconnection of populations has consequences, including the impact on the spread of disease. Students will act as historians by answering historical questions, evaluating sources of information and making inferences based on documents from Rhode Island and world history.
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Step-by-Step Instruction

Time Required: 180 minutes minimum

Materials Needed: Large index cards, overhead for displaying image, found at http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/toolkit/posters.htm
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC Posters for Schools about Flu Prevention
Accessed August 16, 2010

1. Distribute large index cards. Before displaying the image, instruct students to hold the card vertically. They will spend six minutes silently observing an image and recording their observations on the index cards both graphically and linguistically. They will spend the first three minutes silently sketching the image onto their index card, then they will turn their card over and use the next three minutes to describe the image in words.

2. After the six minutes of recorded observation, guide the discussion by asking three questions: What do you see? (description), How can you interpret the image? (deduction) and What questions does this raise? (Speculation).

3. Let them know that they will be using the CDC poster as a springboard to explore the question, “Why did the CDC make such a big deal out of the H1N1 virus?” They will act as historians and read and evaluate historical documents and draw inferences based on the information available. They will work through Activities #1-5 and then use the information they gather to answer the question as part of the final project. The activities may be completed in any order, except that Activity #1 must be done before Activity #2.

4. When all activities are completed, students use the information they have gathered to complete the final project.
Activity #1 Influenza in Providence

Materials needed: Writing paper, Chart to complete, Printed images of newspaper articles found in Rhode Island Historical Society Charles Chapin Papers MSS 343 box 10, 1917-1918.

A Sept 15 25 sailors in city have Spanish grip
C October 3 Spanish Influenza is cause of 46 deaths in state in past 24 hours
G October 4 Local and navy authorities act to combat spread of influenza (39 deaths in state during day)
F October 5 all places of public assembly in this city ordered closed
E October 8 City now has 6427 cases of influenza
B October 11 Doctors say spread of influenza epidemic in city is decreasing
D Dec 4 city experiencing mild recrudescence of influenza

Read each article and complete the chart below. Include all influenza related news; use additional paper if necessary.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date of article</th>
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Using the information that appeared in the seven newspaper articles, create a timeline that documents the spread of influenza in Providence, Rhode Island in 1918. The time line must include the dates and significant facts such as mortality figures, number of people infected, and the response by authorities in an effort to halt the spread of illness.
25 Sailors in City Have Spanish Grip

Epidemic Prevalent in Atlantic Ports Hits Providence.

NAVY LADS IN HOSPITAL

Enlisted Men Taken to St. Joseph's from Rumford Home to Past Few Days Suffering from Malady.—Dr. Chapin Looks for Spread of Disease.

The grip, not the old-fashioned kind that for many years was a regular caller here each winter, but the very latest brand that originated not long ago in Spain, and which has since been leisurely traversing the globe, has struck Providence, according to Superintendent of Health Chapin, and the city is threatened with an epidemic of the disease.

Some weeks ago when cases of Spanish influenza began to crop up in New York physicians here started to look out for it in Providence, believing that this city could not long escape it in view of the constant traffic between the two cities and the excellent opportunity for transmitting a contagious disease thus afforded.

Although none of the local physicians had ever seen a case of the malady they were thoroughly familiar with the symptoms, and it was not long before reports of suspects began to reach the office of the Superintendent of Health.

Among the first cases noted were those of a number of the Naval Reserves from Newport who were on duty at the State little Range at Rumford and within a few days 12 of these men were sent to St. Joseph's Hospital with well defined symptoms of the disease.

Friday, 11 more bluejackets were struck and sent to St. Joseph's, making the total number now there 23, who are suffering from what, as near as the physicians are able to diagnose, is Spanish influenza.

Other cases are coming in from different sections of Providence and the Health authorities are satisfied that the city is hit for a worse of the disease which made things so disastrous in France, France and England only a short time ago.

According to Dr. Chapin, this malady as it is appearing here is very much the same as the old-fashioned grip, except that its course is much shorter and is less serious in its effects.

The symptoms are much the same, the victim at first suffering from cold to the head, followed by fever, headache and backache. In some cases a cough accompanies the disease, and these are said to be the most serious cases, sometimes developing into pneumonia.

The disease is highly contagious, but, according to Dr. Chapin, little can be done to guard against it, because of the fact that the period of incubation is so short that the cases are not easily recognized.
Spanish Influenza is Cause of 46 Deaths in State in Past 24 Hours

Epidemic Assumes Serious Aspect in Rhode Island, Fatalities During Day Reaching New High Mark

28 Persons in Providence and Eight at Newport Are Latest Victims of Disease.—Additional Cities and Towns Close Schools.—Dr. Chapin Takes Action to Ascertain Exact Situation in This City

With 46 deaths reported yesterday the Spanish influenza epidemic is assuming a serious aspect in this State. The number of deaths reported during the last 24 hours is the highest since the epidemic hit Rhode Island. It is impossible to estimate the number of new cases yesterday, although it is not believed to be extremely large.

While Newport with 10 new cases and eight deaths yesterday continues to be the centre of the epidemic in this State, there were 28 deaths reported in Providence yesterday. Pawtucket reported three deaths. Outside of Rhode Island in near-by cities and towns deaths were reported as follows: Fall River six, Attleboro one, Taunton four and North Attleboro two. Several Rhode Islanders died yesterday in other parts of the country.

The situation in Rhode Island has become so serious that additional cities and towns decided yesterday to close their schools. Action toward this end was taken in Woonsocket, Pawtucket and Warwick, and in Seekonk, Mass. Superintendent Isaac O. Winslow of the Providence public schools said last evening that no action seems necessary here at the present time.

Steps to ascertain the exact situation were taken yesterday morning by Dr. Charles V. Chapin, Superintendent of Health of Providence.

Every physician in the city has been asked to report immediately every case of influenza or pneumonia under his care at the present time.

DOCTORS ASKED TO REPORT

Dr. Charles V. Chapin, Superintendent of Health, yesterday sent to every physician in Providence a postcard asking for an immediate report on the number of influenza and pneumonia cases each physician has under his care. The doctors are also asked to express their opinion as to whether the disease is increasing or on the wane here.

Daniel E. Stoddard, a salesman for Young Brothers Company, died early yesterday at his home, 206 Adelaide avenue, of double pneumonia, which developed from an attack of grip. He was 28 years old and was treasurer of the Calvary Young Men’s Business Club.

Mr. Stoddard was born in Warren and secured a business education in Providence schools. He was employed by the Lever Rubber Company at one time. Mr. Stoddard was a member of Calvary Baptist Church and St. John’s Lodge of Masons. He is survived by his father, Daniel W. Stoddard; his wife, Anna Elizabeth Stoddard, and two children.

Mrs. Sarah Ward Hale of 1487 Broad
Local and Navy Authorities Act to Combat Spread of Influenza

Epidemic Causes 39 Deaths in State During Day and Continues to Increase, According to Reports

Providence Aldermen to Meet in Special Session with Dr. Charles V. Chapin, to Formulate Plans for More Extensive Campaign to Safeguard Public. Sailors Denied Shore Leave Until Further Orders, as Precautionary Measure

This morning deaths from Epidemic Influenza in Rhode Island were reported during the past 24 hours and health authorities in various localities stated that even though the spread of the epidemic was undoubtedly on the increase throughout the State, deaths of two Rhode Island sailors at Newport have rúted cautiousness among the Second Naval District from being away from their stations except under particular circumstances. In Barrington, where more than 50 cases are reported, schools have been closed and shows and other public gatherings prohibited until further notice.

The Aldermen will meet at the City Hall this afternoon at 2 o'clock and sit as a Board of Health, with Dr. Charles V. Chapin, city health officer, also present. The meeting was arranged yesterday at an executive session of the Aldermen, following their regular meeting, after Mayor Chapin had gone over the situation with them.

Mayor said that reports received by him were of a character to indicate that action by the city might become imperative, and he desired to place the matter before the board in order that the opinion of the members of the situation might be obtained.

MAY CLOSE SCHOOLS

The possibility of doing so ha almost been decided, the Mayor said, whether the situation had attained a decided epidemic character or not to warrant the city in changing its present attitude toward the situation. He had made no provision for handling the situation should the city should make an attempt to take the city by the board.

Superintendent of Health Chapin was called into the meeting and it was finally decided that the board should sit this afternoon as a Health Board, when any action to be taken by the city will be definitely decided upon. By order of the Commandant, acting upon the advice of his medical aids, an order was issued yesterday stopping all general liberty in the Second Naval District, which includes not only the various stations at Newport, but also the submarine base at New London. No man in the service, excepting those who are bona fide residents of Newport, will be allowed ashore.

It was explained that the intent of the order is to prevent men from going to other cities as the Y. M. C. A. in Fall River, frequented by navy men when visiting that city, is being used as a hospital. Further, it was stated that a letter had been received from the Providence health authorities urging that such a step be taken.

General Liberty was suspended some time ago when the epidemic first made its appearance, but at that time it was not so stringent, the men being permitted to leave Newport, but prohibited from leaving the city. The present order imposes greater restrictions.

Capt. Martin J. Trench, the new commanding officer at the Torpede Station, was taken ill yesterday, but his ailment has not as yet been diagnosed as influenza. Capt. Omar, Commandant of the District, who is ill with the disease, is reported improving.

Two deaths and 111 new cases were reported among the civilian population at Newport yesterday.

102 SAILORS ILL

There were 31 new influenza cases reported in the Second Naval District yesterday, 23 of them at New London and the other nine in the units about Newport. For the past 24-hour period there were 112 deaths: 30 at the Newport Naval Hospital and two at the Naval Hospital at New London. Forty-two patients were discharged from the Newport Naval Hospital yesterday, leaving 118 cases under treatment there, and the district headquarters reported that there were still 111 sailors and marines under treatment at the Providence hospitals.

There have been a total of 220 cases of influenza in the Second District, of which 200 have developed pneumonia and the deaths up to yesterday had mounted to 77, 20 of these being at New London.

Two new cases were reported at Fort Allen yesterday for the previous 24 hours, which brings the total number of cases in the MARINECAMPUS up to 25, with four deaths.

The Newport Board of Health announced yesterday that the Emergency Hospital would be opened this morning. The Newport Hospital had 61 cases under treatment yesterday, besides 29 of the nurses are ill, two more being sent to the hospital yesterday. Twenty-nine cases are under treatment at the Red Cross Hospital and about half of this number are convalescent cases.

While the present facilities of the Rhode Island, St. Joseph's and City Hospitals are overtaxed by the number of patients now under treatment, Dr. Chapin has learned that in the two new named institutions emergency arrangements are being made, that additional assistance can be obtained from the sources, and it is believed that additional assistance can be made for caring for a still larger number of cases, and beds can be obtained.

Dr. Chapin has been in communication with the Red Cross officials to find out what assistance in the way of medical men can be obtained from this source, and it is believed that sufficient assistance can be obtained to meet the emergency.

TO RECALL NURSES

The Superintendent of Health yesterday notified the authorities in Boston that today he would be compelled to recall several of the nurses forced to leave the city the beginning of the week, and that tomorrow he would have to recall the other two.

Dr. Chapin is of the opinion that much can be done to prevent the spread of the disease by intelligent cooperation upon the part of the public generally, and particularly, by persons suffering from symptoms of cold. To these he issued the following injunctions:

"If you have influenza or if you have a cough or a cold and don’t know whether it is influenza, stay at home. It is best for you.

"It will prevent others from catching the disease."

It was announced Wednesday through error, by St. Joseph’s Hospital, that Mrs. Rose McKenzie of 323 Robin street had died of influenza. Mrs. Rose McKenzie, who had been a patient there for another disease, was discharged from the hospital several days ago as completely cured and in some way her name was given out instead of that of Mrs. Mary McKenzie of 33 Rosemont street, who died from influenza Wednesday.

Miss Grace L. Macomb, a student at the Women's College at Brown University, who died of influenza at the Rhode Island General Hospital Wednesday, was a daughter of Mrs. Henrietta Macomb of Springfield, Mass. She came here last Wednesday for the opening of college and was ill only a few days.

INFLUENZA SAFEGUARDS

The following recommendations are offered by Dr. Charles V. Chapin, Superintendent of Health in Providence:

Influenza is chiefly spread by droplets from the mouth and nose in talking, coughing and sneezing. Keep at arms’ length from everyone in the house when getting it is small.

Don’t go where you have to crowd close to others. Don’t let people talk in your face.

Put an influenza patient to bed at once in a separate bed and separate room.

Give a hot drink, cover warmly but not too warmly. If the patient get chilled, do not put on cold clothes.

Give a little nourishment, mostly fluid.

Keep the bowels open.
All Places of Public Assembly in This City Ordered Closed

Restrictions Placed on Theatres, Schools, Churches, Etc., Beginning at 12 O’Clock Tonight

Aldermen Act to Curb Spread of Spanish Influenza—41 Deaths in Rhode Island During Past 24 Hours, 15 Here—Hundreds of New Cases—Billy Sunday Meetings to be Held on Sundays Only

Acting under the powers conferred upon him as a board of health, the Board of Aldermen yesterday at a special session at City Hall issued an order closing all public and parochial schools, theatres, motion picture houses, public dance halls, and prohibiting all public meetings for religious services, except that the churches may hold their regular weekly services one day of each week. This action was taken as an emergency measure to combat further progress of the influenza epidemic in this city.

The total of deaths in Rhode Island yesterday as the result of Spanish influenza or pneumonia following the disease and the epidemic continues unchecked, according to all reports. Of the 41 deaths in the State yesterday it is estimated that 21 were influenza. Another 123 deaths were reported during the day, 214 in the situation three barbers have been ordered to cease work.

Other places in the State took action yesterday also to put curbs on the epidemic. At Warren the schools, theaters and saloons were ordered closed. The order affecting Providence becomes effective at midnight tonight, and according to Mayor Galwer it will be rigidly enforced by the police authorities of the city.

Epidemic Appropriated

The Aldermen also voted a special appropriation of $200,000 to be expended under the supervision of the health department in securing additional nurses and hospital equipment to care for any situation which may arise.

The Board of Aldermen, in the case of Mayor Galwer, Alderman Joseph Balch, chairman of the health committee, and Superintendent of Health Chaplin, was named to see what can be done at once toward the expansion of hospital facilities in the city.

When the action was being taken by the Board of Aldermen, reports were received from the office of the Superintendent of Health which indicated that the epidemic situation has beyond a form here.

One hundred and eight doctors reported 2290 cases of grip under their care, 186 of which they characterized as “new” cases. Fifty-five of these physicians expressed the opinion that the epidemic is on the increase; seven that it is decreasing, while it failed to express any opinion upon the matter.

Reports from nearly 200 doctors are still to be received, and if the present ratio continues the number of cases will be more than doubled.

Pending is the resolution adopted by the Aldermen yesterday in issuing their closing order:

“The continuance of a serious epidemic of influenza is prevalent throughout the city of Providence and

“Whereas, on account of the highly contagious nature of said disease all gatherings and assemblies of people constitute a menace to the health of the community; and

“Whereas, it is essential, so far as possible, to limit the assembling of people in public places; and

“Whereas, Surgeon General Moore of the Public Health Service and the State Board of Health have advocated that social, social and religious houses and places of amusement.

Various proposals were made for the closing of all places, including public schools, theaters, motion picture houses, and places of amusement. The order issued at 12 o’clock tonight specifies the closing of all places of public assembly, including churches, except for regular services.

The meeting of the Aldermen was held at 9 o’clock in City Hall. In opening it, Mayor Galwer announced that he had called the members together for the purpose of taking immediate steps to prevent further spread of the disease, and that the council was meeting to decide whether an appropriation should be made to provide additional hospital facilities for the victims of the epidemic.

The Mayor called a full house of the council. The council, in his opening address, said that the public health department had taken all necessary steps to prevent the spread of the disease, and that the epidemic was not expected to continue for long.

As to the necessity for greater hospital facilities, Dr. Chaplin declared there could be no question of the need. "We are facing a very grave situation," he said. "This disease is likely to spread next week and by the end of the week we may have many more cases. We should do all we can to get nurses and to expand our hospital facilities.

Explaining his former statement that the closing of public places would have no effect upon checking the epidemic, Dr. Chaplin declared that the situation is not yet well known with this virulent disease and that to stop a few places would not prevent its ultimate spread.

The severity of the period of incubation he said makes it difficult to take preventive measures against the disease, since a patient might be walking around and mingling with others for 24 or 48 hours before becoming infected.

DIFFERENT OPINION

A considerable difference of opinion existed among the Aldermen at first with regard to the extent to which the board should go in closing public places, particularly churches.

After considerable discussion, Alderman McKee moved that the board go on record as against closing any of the places named, but this motion was defeated by a voice vote.

Soon after, the resolution finally adopted, was drawn and placed upon the agenda. It was voted that a copy of the order be forwarded to the President of the school committee and the board of health.

Before adjourning, the Aldermen adopted a resolution introduced by Alderman Hjellsten requesting the Rhode Island Company to properly ventilate its cars as a means of checking the spread of the epidemic, and instructing the commission on railroad to see that such action is taken by the company.

Open cars already have been put into use during the late hours by the Rhode Island Company, as a precaution. Superintendent of Transportation Hjellsten held a conference yesterday afternoon with President A. E. Potter and the board of trustees of the company.

Various proposals were discussed, and the epidemic were discussed.
The annual meeting of October 7, 1918, at 8 P.M., for the presentation of reports by Dr. Charles V. Chapin, Nursing Association. With our enlarged membership audience, the meeting will be held at 300.
Influenza Situation in This State Now Showing Slight Improvement

44 Deaths in Past 24 Hours is Decrease from Previous Day’s Figures

Providence Has 5773 Cases and Seems Centre of Epidemic, While Newport Reports Are Most Encouraging in Several Days.—City and Town Authorities Take Further Action.—Use of Paper Cups Here Requested

Although reports up to last evening showed that there are 5773 cases of Spanish influenza and pneumonia in this city, reports from other parts of the State were encouraging, and indicate that the general condition in Rhode Island has not shown any change for the worse, at least in the past 24 hours. Incomplete returns show that there have been 44 deaths in Rhode Island during the 24 hours ending at 2:30 o’clock this morning. This is a decrease of eight fatalities over the previous 24 hours.

The increase in the number of cases in this city between Saturday noon and last evening was 223, the number Saturday noon being 3560. Reports received by Superintendent of Health Chapin showed that the number of new cases here is increasing. Reports for Friday showed 621 new cases, while Saturday 616 new cases were reported. Sunday’s incomplete returns showed but 279 new cases. However, the last figure does not include reports from many physicians.

AUTHORITIES TAKE ACTION

City and town authorities in various parts of the State are taking further action daily in an attempt to stamp out the disease. The Board of Aldermen here last evening in special session passed a resolution requesting all restaurants, lunch rooms, soda fountains, saloons and all public dispensers of cold drinks of any description to use individual paper beverage containers. In addition an appropriation of $5000 was made to be expended under the direction of the Mayor and superintendent of health in combating the epidemic. The board had previously considered the matter in executive session. A committee, composed of Fred Mansfield, manager of the Crown Hotel, John Thompson, James O’Brien, Philip Hauk and James Black, was called before the board and advised of the proposed action and urged to conform to its provisions.

This action was taken following the visit yesterday morning to Mayor Gainer of a delegation of citizens who had urged the closing of all public drinking places.
Doctors Say Spread of Influenza Epidemic in City is Decreasing

Reports of Large Number of Additional Cases Said to Include Persons Ill Several Days

Seventeen More Deaths Reported, Bringing Number for Past 36 Hours Up to 35.—Newport, Weyersley and Other Towns Also Report Abatement in Spread of Epidemic.—Shawmut Pastor Among Latest Victims of Disease

But approximately 70 additional cases of influenza in Providence were reported by hospital authorities last evening, who stated that spread of the epidemic in the city had apparently been considerably lessened. Seventeen additional deaths from the disease were also reported, bringing the total number for the past three hours up to 35. The total number of cases of the disease in the city since the epidemic started is now 4,040.

Although additional cases were reported at the Register's office yesterday evening, physicians stated last evening that the number could not be traced as an indication of the spread of the disease during the 36 hours covered by the report. Many of the cases, they said, had existed since the epidemic first started and were not reported until the persons had finally consulted a physician. The number of really "new" cases, they stated, would fall far short of the number reported.

Nine additional cases were reported among sailors in the Second Naval District, two of which are in the naval unit at Brown University. One death was reported at the Newport Naval Hospital and one at the New London Naval Hospital.

Naval Situation Improves

Both the Newport and naval health authorities, however, express confidence that the epidemic is abating in the city and throughout the Second Naval District. The number of cases reported in Newport yesterday was considerably less than the number for the day before. Two deaths were reported in Westerly yesterday, but spread of the disease there and in Pawtucket, Conn., across the river, was said to be considerably checked.

Two deaths were reported in Woonsocket during the 36 hours yesterday, but it was stated last evening that the number of new cases reported was less than on the previous day. The emergency hospital in the city's high school building will be opened this morning.

Two deaths were reported in Pawtucket last evening, two in Central Falls, one in Lincoln and six in towns in the Pawtucket Valley. In each place, however, it was stated that spread of the disease seemed to be abating.

Among those who died from the disease last evening was Rev. Frank H. Clowdell, pastor of the Shawmut Baptist Church, in Woonsocket. He was taken ill with influenza about a week ago, pneumonia later developing.

Rev. Mr. Cowell was born in Plainville, Mass., and attended Brown University from 1864 to 1874. He later graduated from Orner Theological Seminary and was a pastor at Germantown, Md., and in the Shawmut Baptist Church seven years ago. He is survived by his wife and four children. All of the children are now ill with influenza.

Just a week after his promotion, the Rev. Harold F. Greene, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Greene of Hamilton, died Tuesday at Camp Maude, Md., of pneumonia following a short illness from influenza. He was a member of the Porte-second Company, Eleventh Battalion, One Hundred and Fifty-fourth Depot Brigade.

Private John C. Manning of East Providence, a member of the Ammunition Train, died yesterday at Fort Allen, making the death toll at the front during the present epidemic. One additional case was reported at the fort last evening.

Mayor Asks Physicians to Make Quick Reports

Says This is Necessary to Watch Epidemic

Mayor Gainer yesterday issued a statement calling upon the physicians of the city to report quickly every case of influenza coming under their care, so that the authorities can keep accurate and close watch of the epidemic and be in a position to take such measures as may be necessary to handle it. The statement follows:

"It is unnecessary to emphasize the seriousness of the present epidemic in our community. Because of the spread of influenza, business has been seriously interfered with, schools have had to be closed, churches have had to curtail their religious services and essential war activities have had to be abandoned."

"The most important question for the authorities to know at this time is whether the disease is increasing or diminishing, and when we are likely to reach the crest of the outbreak. This information is necessary, first, to know to what extent car fare increases particularly at 6 o'clock in the evening, when the authorities are having difficulty in disposing of the epidemic."

The meeting at City Hall was attended by representatives of the following business houses, all of which, as stated above, had agreed to do anything necessary to aid in fighting the epidemic: The Cable Company, Boston & Providence Telephone Company, The Shepherd Company, Browning Machine Company, Kennedy's, C. H. Gladding Dyer Company and Brother & Webb.

In closing, the mayor, on behalf of himself, Superintendent of Health Chapin and Alderman Joseph Balch, chairman of the committee on health, issued this order: "It has been agreed by all the health authorities that the street cars are the most dangerous places for the spread of influenza. To avoid crowding the cars in the rush hours and to lessen the danger occasioned thereby, acting under the authority of the board of health of the city of Providence, we request that all street cars be held for 5 p.m. close at 5:30 p.m., in order to keep the carriers from the rush hours and better to handle the street cars."

"It is understood that this request does not apply to Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning."

Mayor Gainer said the order was more evenly distributed. It is also remitted that all stores in the downtown section of the city eliminate all special sales for the rest of the week, so that crowds will not be attracted during the continuance of the epidemic."

"In answering this order," the mayor said, "we are consulted with the desire to keep business at its usual level. We ask permission to close the stores which are not essential, in order to protect the public from the spread of the disease."

Mayor Gainer also called upon the dealers in the city to cooperate in the fight against the epidemic in order to protect the public from the spread of the disease, and asked for the cooperation of the voluntary laborers who work in the stores to carry out the plan for the prevention of the spread of the disease.

Camphor Wont Stop Grip

In Spite of General Belief

Demand Upon Druggists Has Taken Entire Supply

Alarmed overgerium in the city is experiencing a run on camphor, that penetrating odor and aromatic convulsive. And the cause is influenza. Somewhere the idea started that camphor was a preventive and that a small square would ward off germs. It was not long before there was enough and people had boxed in the stores to buy up all the available supply.

Women come into stores and ask for camphor and it does not come from their furrs. They go along the street and gain little unsolicited packages as they get into crowds. The camphor craze is not confined to the women by any means. Some men have been noted who were carrying camphor to the rush houses.

When camphor failed at the stores, people have been known to carry second few moth balls just to scare off germs. As a result, there isn't any camphor available in Providence stores at his time, according as to all reports.

The供需 is not confined to this city. Boston has experienced the same state of affairs and the idea of the efficacy of camphor areas in that city. Some druggists have even passed it from friend to friend, peddling with them to send in a bit of camphor to the people through this time of trouble.

And not the worst of this is that camphor doesn't do any good. Dr. Charles R. G. seen says: "To carry a piece of camphor will not stop the grip. Camphor is very scare now on account of the war. The price has soared and this general panic went to lower it. Says Dr. Chapin, "Do not rely on such means, arbitrary means, but avoid infection and keep up your strength."
CITY EXPERIENCING MILD
INFLUENZA RECRUDESCENCE

Disease, however, physicians say, is
of less virulent type.

Reports being received from physicians indicate that Providence, like other
cities of the country, is experiencing a
mild recrudescence of the epidemic of
Spanish influenza which attacked the city
some weeks ago.

Superintendent of Health Chapin said
yesterday that while there appears to
be a considerable number of cases of the
disease appearing here, it is in a much
milder form than upon the previous oc-
casion.
Activity #2 Rhode Island enlisted man, Pierre, contracts Influenza

Materials needed: writing paper, print out of wires found in the Rhode Island Historical Society, Rowland G Hazard III/ Mary P Hazard MSS 483 sg7 Box 7 folder 4 Nov-Dec re Pierre’s Influenza (sub-series 3: Mary PB Hazard)

#1 Letter from Fort Sam Houston Texas Lieut. Col Medical Corp FCA Kellam, Jr. alerting family that son Thomas P Hazard has influenza Dec 3 1918

#2 Western Union telegram: Rush Dec 9 1918 from VanAuken Fort Sam Houston Pierre has pneumonia think you had better come at once wire when you will arrive St Louis. M I Merrill. Received at 87 Fairfield Ave Bridgeport CT)

Instruct student to read each telegram and then respond to the following questions:

1. Who produced this document?
2. When and where was the document produced?
3. Who is this document addressed to?
4. What is the subject of this document?
5. What is the emotional state of the author?
6. Add the dates and Pierre’s status to the timeline created in Activity #1

Reflection: Based on the timeline for influenza in Providence, how would Pierre’s parents feel and what action do you think they should take?
U.S. Army Base Hospital,
Fort Sam Houston, Texas.
December 3, 1918.

Mrs. R. G. Hazard,

dear Madam:

Dear Madam:

Your son, Lieut. Thomas F. Hazard, is a patient in this hospital suffering from what is apparently a mild attack of influenza.

It is the custom of this institution to immediately inform those near and dear to the soldiers when they are sick.

At present he is doing nicely and receiving every attention. Should any changes take place for the worse, we will immediately notify you by wire.

Very respectfully,

(F.C.A. Kellam, Jr.)
RECEIVED AT 87 FAIRFIELD AVE. (NEAR MAIN ST.), BRIDGEPORT, CONN. ALWAYS OPEN

160NYA 22 1EX RUSH

PEACEDALE RI 1210P DEC 9 18

MRS M P B HAZARD 159

CR TRAIN 173 COLONIAL EXPRESS DUE 122P BRIDGEPORT

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM VANUUKEN FORTSAMHOUSTON PIERRE HAS PNEUMONIA

THINK YOU HAD BETTER COME AT ONCE WIRE WHEN YOU WILL ARRIVE ST LOUIS.

M I MERRILL

113P
Activity #3 Influenza decimates the military: Fort Devens, Massachusetts

Two personal narratives are included with this lesson. They both describe the high mortality at Fort Devens; one is short oral history collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the second is a letter written by a medical officer in which he details the progression of the illness and impact on camp life. Either one or both may be used with your students.

1918 Pandemic oral histories
http://www.cdc.gov/about/panflu/stories/warstories_burke.html

**Storyteller:** David P. Burke  
**Location:** Massachusetts

My father, Paul J. Burke, grew up in Waltham, Massachusetts. He was a senior in high school during the 1918 pandemic flu event. Paul had a part-time job selling snacks on railroad trains. These were local trains and during that time, there were not many cars on them. Sometimes he would work a train going through the station at Fort Devens. Fort Devens was a recruit training base. Paul remembered that sometimes the platform of the railroad station at Fort Devens would be stacked with the coffins of recruits who had died from the flu. My father did not get sick nor could he explain why his parents allowed him to work the trains during the pandemic.

Copy of original letter found in Detroit in 1959
http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/mmi/jmoodie/influen2.html

Camp Devens, Mass.  
Surgical Ward No 16  
29 September 1918  
(Base Hospital)

My dear Burt-

It is more than likely that you would be interested in the news of this place, for there is a possibility that you will be assigned here for duty, so having a minute between rounds I will try to tell you a little about the situation here as I have seen it in the last week. As you know I have not seen much Pneumonia in the last few years in Detroit, so when I came here I was somewhat behind in the niceties of the Army way of intricate Diagnosis. Also to make it good, I have had for the last week an exacerbation of my old "Ear Rot" as Artie Ogle calls it, and could not use a Stethoscope at all, but had to get by on my ability to "spot" ’em thru my general knowledge of Pneumonias. I did well enough, and finally found an old Phonendoscope that I pieced together, and from then on was all right. You know the Army regulations require very close locations etc.
Camp Devens is near Boston, and has about 50,000 men, or did have before this epidemic broke loose. It also has the Base Hospital for the Div. of the N. East. This epidemic started about four weeks ago, and has developed so rapidly that the camp is demoralized and all ordinary work is held up till it has passed. All assemblages of soldiers taboo. These men start with what appears to be an ordinary attack of LaGrippe or Influenza, and when brought to the Hosp. they very rapidly develop the most viscous type of Pneumonia that has ever been seen. Two hours after admission they have the Mahogany spots over the cheek bones, and a few hours later you can begin to see the Cyanosis extending from their ears and spreading all over the face, until it is hard to distinguish the coloured men from the white. It is only a matter of a few hours then until death comes, and it is simply a struggle for air until they suffocate. It is horrible. One can stand it to see one, two or twenty men die, but to see these poor devils dropping like flies sort of gets on your nerves. We have been averaging about 100 deaths per day, and still keeping it up. There is no doubt in my mind that there is a new mixed infection here, but what I dont know. My total time is taken up hunting Rales, rales dry or moist, sibilant or crepitant or any other of the hundred things that one may find in the chest, they all mean but one thing here -Pneumonia-and that means in about all cases death.

The normal number of resident Drs. here is about 25 and that has been increased to over 250, all of whom (of course excepting me) have temporary orders "Return to your proper Station on completion of work". Mine says "Permanent Duty", but I have been in the Army just long enough to learn that it doesnt always mean what it says. So I dont know what will happen to me at the end of this.

We have lost an outrageous number of Nurses and Drs., and the little town of Ayer is a sight. It takes Special trains to carry away the dead. For several days there were no coffins and the bodies piled up something fierce, we used to go down to the morgue (which is just back of my ward) and look at the boys laid out in long rows. It beats any sight they ever had in France after a battle. An extra long barracks has been vacated for the use of the Morgue, and it would make any man sit up and take notice to walk down the long lines of dead soldiers all dressed and laid out in double rows. We have no relief here, you get up in the morning at 5.30 and work steady till about 9.30 P.M., sleep, then go at it again. Some of the men of course have been here all the time, and they are TIRED.

If this letter seems somewhat disconnected overlook it, for I have been called away from it a dozen times the last time just now by the Officer of the Day, who came in to tell me that they have not as yet found at any of the autopsies any case beyond the Red. Hepatitis. stage. It kills them before they get that far.

I dont wish you any hard luck Old Man but I do wish you were here for a while at least. Its more comfortable when one has a friend about. The men here are all good fellows, but I get so damned sick o Pneumonia that when I go to eat I want to find some fellow who will not "Talk Shop" but there aint none nohow. We eat it live it, sleep it, and dream it, to say nothing of breathing it 16 hours a day. I would be very grateful indeed if you would
drop me a line or two once in a while, and I will promise you that if you ever get into a
fix like this, I will do the same for you.

Each man here gets a ward with about 150 beds, (Mine has 168) and has an Asst. Chief to
boss him, and you can imagine what the paper work alone is - fierce,-- and the Govt.
demands all paper work be kept up in good shape. I have only four day nurses and five
night nurses (female) a ward-master, and four orderlies. So you can see that we are busy.
I write this in piecemeal fashion. It may be a long time before I can get another letter to
you, but will try.

This letter will give you an idea of the monthly report which has to be in Monday. I have
mine most ready now. My Boss was in just now and gave me a lot more work to do so I
will have to close this.

Good By old Pal,
"God be with you till we meet again"
Keep the Bouells open.
(Sgd) Roy.

After reading the narrative(s), answer the following question:

1. Who is the author of this narrative? What is their background? Cite evidence
   from the text to support your answer.
2. When and where was this narrative created? What was going on at Camp Devens
   at the time being discussed?
3. Who is the audience to whom this information is directed?
4. What is the purpose of this document; what is the reason behind the
   communication?
5. What is the subject of this narrative?

Reflection Questions:

1. David Burke’s account: Put yourself in Paul Burke’s shoes. You have a job
   selling snacks on the train, and see stacks of coffins each time your train stops at
   Fort Devens. Would you continue to work there, quit or take other action?
   Support your decision with information found in this activity.
2. What ward does the author work in? In paragraph two, how many deaths occur
   each day? Paragraph three describes the increase from 25 doctors to how many.
   What is the main subject of paragraph four? Put yourself in Dr. Roy’s shoes.
   What would be your physical and emotional state?
Activity #4 Police in Seattle Wear Gauze

Materials Needed: Writing paper, print out of image titled, ‘Policemen in Seattle wearing masks made by the Red Cross, during the influenza epidemic. December 1918.’
American Memory, An American Time Capsule, Three Centuries of Broadsides and Other Printed Ephemera, 1918

Students are to create a graphic organizer to compare and contrast the two images. Students need to include five or more concepts held in common, and five differences for each image. These are some topics for inclusion; there are many others as well.

- Place of production
- Date of production
- Government Agencies represented
- Intended audience
- Global context
- Subject matter
- Personal impact
- Common concerns
- Image
- Tone
Activity #5 Influenza-inspired Poetic Verse

Materials needed: Lined paper, jump ropes (2), dictionaries/thesaurus, Copies of the two poems. ‘Obey the laws’ is found at http://virus.stanford.edu/uda/fluresponse.html. ‘I had a little bird,’ is found at http://www.history.navy.mil/library/online/influenza%20phil%201918.htm

This poem encouraged adults to wear gauze masks, in some areas it was the law:

\[
\begin{align*}
    \text{Obey the laws} \\
    \text{And wear the gauze} \\
    \text{Protect your jaws} \\
    \text{From Septic Paws}
\end{align*}
\]

This poem was a jump-roping rhyme sung by children across the nation:

\[
\begin{align*}
    \text{I had a little bird} \\
    \text{and its name was Enza} \\
    \text{I opened the window and} \\
    \text{in-flu-enza}
\end{align*}
\]

Copy each poem onto the left side of a sheet of lined paper, skipping lines. On the right side of the paper, add notations about each line. First, circle any unfamiliar words and write any questions you have about the line. Look up any unfamiliar words and then restate each line in clear terms.

Reflection:

1. Grab a jump rope and recite the poems as you jump. Is one poem better suited to jumping rope than the other?
2. Why would an adult create a poem about wearing gauze masks?
3. Why would other adults repeat a poem about wearing gauze masks?
4. Why would children nationwide be reciting a jump-roping rhyme about a deadly illness?
Final Project

Materials needed: Writing Paper, question list, rubric and printed copy of broadside

Students are to incorporate knowledge of the other documents studied in this unit to respond to the question “Why was the CDC so worried about H1N1?” Students are to answer the following questions in a well written, thoughtful response:

- Who produced this image?
- Where and when was it produced?
- Who was the intended audience for this work?
- What was the purpose for creating this image – why was the message important?
- What message was the image created to communicate?

Students must support their response by referring to specific information and/or direct quotes taken from the image itself and from the newspaper articles, letters, telegram, photograph, poems and the oral history explored in this lesson.
**Rubric for final project**

Students respond individually to the question, “‘Why was the CDC so worried about H1N1?’” In their well written, thoughtful response, they have responded to the following prompts (use checklist below):

- Who produced this image
- Where and when this was produced
- Who the intended audience for this work was
- What the purpose for creating this image was
- What big idea(s) the image was created to communicate

Student support their response by referring to specific information and/or quotes taken from the image itself and the nine additional documents explored in this lesson.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Low Performance 1 point</th>
<th>At/below average 2 points</th>
<th>At/above average 3 points</th>
<th>Exemplary Performance 4 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response to Question</td>
<td>A somewhat well written, thoughtful response that answers four of the five questions.</td>
<td>A somewhat well written, thoughtful response that answers all five questions.</td>
<td>A well written, thoughtful response that answers all five questions in a general way.</td>
<td>An articulate, well reasoned, thoughtful response that articulately answers all five questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness of the documents chosen to support the Response</td>
<td>The specific information and/or direct quotes from the image and each additional documents loosely support the student’s response to the question.</td>
<td>The specific information and/or direct quotes from the image and each additional documents somewhat support the student’s response to the question.</td>
<td>The specific information and/or direct quotes from the image and each additional documents generally support the student’s response to the question.</td>
<td>The specific information and/or direct quotes from the image and each additional documents effectively support and reinforce the student’s response to the question.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Score:
Minimum Requirements

In order to receive a passing grade on this unit, students must approach their work at the ‘student’ level or beyond, thoughtfully and thoroughly complete activities 1-4 and hand in all of their work receive, and earn a total of 4 points or higher on the final project.
Sources

Activity #1 Influenza in Providence: Rhode Island Historical Society Charles Chapin Papers MSS 343 box 10, 1917-1918. Articles dated: Sept 15, October 3, October 4, October 5, October 8, October 11 and December 4, 1918.

Activity #2 Rhode Island enlisted man, Pierre, contracts Influenza: Materials needed: Rhode Island Historical Society, Rowland G Hazard III/ Mary P Hazard MSS 483 sg7 Box 7 folder 4 Nov-Dec re Pierre’s Influenza (sub-series 3: Mary PB Hazard) Letter from Fort Sam dated December 3 1918 and Western Union telegram dated Dec 9 1918

Activity #3 Influenza decimates the military: Fort Devens, Massachusetts: 1918 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pandemic Oral Histories, Accessed August 15, 2010 http://www.cdc.gov/about/panflu/stories/warstories_burke.html and a copy of original letter found in Detroit in 1959 posted on Influenza site developed by Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Cape Town, 1995 at http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/ mmi/jmoodie/influen2.html


Reference Materials


- PBS online video – really well done, close to an hour long http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americancexperience/films/influenza/
• Providence vs Newport – flu
  http://riroads.com/history/flu.htm
  http://1918.pandemicflu.gov/pics/photos/Rhode_Island1.jpg

• Photograph of Providence
  http://1918.pandemicflu.gov/documents_media/06.htm

• Rhode Island – US Dept of Health and Human Services, summary of flu
  http://1918.pandemicflu.gov/your_state/rhode_island.htm

• Weekly influenza report (current)
  http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm