

# Flu pandemic 100th anniversary: Filling in the numbers



A flu pandemic occurs when a new strain of the flu virus causes a global outbreak of the disease. The virus of 1918 was devastating, killing hundreds of millions of people worldwide. To mark the 100th anniversary of the flu outbreak, this month's LivingRight tool uses number-related facts to show the extent of the outbreak's reach.

Use the numbers in the list below to fill in the answers to the questions. Even though the answers are given, the questions aren't exactly easy – some of the answers are likely to be surprising.

**Answers: 9.2 20 28 35.6 36 38 40 42 48 50 54 500 1918 1930 1957 1968 2009  
12,000 56,000 195,000 670,000**

1. The virus causing the most severe pandemic in recent history was first identified in the United States in spring \_\_\_\_\_, in military personnel.
2. In 1917, a woman's average life expectancy was \_\_\_\_\_ years. In 1918, influenza caused the average life expectancy of a woman to fall to \_\_\_\_\_ years.
3. In 1917, a man's average life expectancy was \_\_\_\_\_ years. In 1918, influenza caused the average life expectancy of a man to fall to \_\_\_\_\_ years.
4. In October 2018, \_\_\_\_\_ Americans were killed by the flu virus.
5. The majority of flu viruses are most dangerous to people who are very young or very old. The 1918 flu pandemic virus was different, as it was more severe among adults between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ years of age.
6. The average age of death for a person killed by the 1918 flu virus was \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
7. About \_\_\_\_\_ million people became infected with the pandemic virus. This was about a third of the world's population.
8. The 1918 flu pandemic killed an estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Americans and \_\_\_\_\_ million people worldwide.
9. The pandemic flu subsided in 1919, but the virus that caused the pandemic continued to circulate seasonally for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
10. In \_\_\_\_\_ scientists discovered that the flu is caused by a virus.
11. Flu pandemics also occurred in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
12. We now have a vaccination to help prevent the spread of the flu, and we also encourage people to wash their hands, cover their cough, and stay home when they're ill to keep the virus from spreading. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ million people get the flu each year and \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ die from it.

*Information Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

# Flu pandemic 100th anniversary: Filling in the numbers



## Answer Key

1. The virus causing the most severe pandemic in recent history was first identified in the United States in spring **1918**, in military personnel.
2. In 1917, a woman's average life expectancy was **54** years. In 1918, influenza caused the average life expectancy of a woman to fall to **42** years.
3. In 1917, a man's average life expectancy was **48** years. In 1918, influenza caused the average life expectancy of a man to fall to **36** years.
4. In October 2018, **195,000** Americans were killed by the flu virus.
5. The majority of flu viruses are most dangerous to people who are very young or very old. The 1918 flu pandemic virus was different, as it was more severe among adults between **20** and **40** years of age.
6. The average age of death for a person killed by the 1918 flu virus was **28** years old.
7. About **500** million people became infected with the pandemic virus. This was about a third of the world's population.
8. The 1918 flu pandemic killed an estimated **670,000** Americans and **50** million people worldwide.
9. The pandemic flu subsided in 1919, but the virus that caused the pandemic continued to circulate seasonally for **38** years.
10. In **1930**, scientists discovered that the flu is caused by a virus.
11. Flu pandemics also occurred in **1957**, **1968**, and **2009**.
12. We now have a vaccination to help prevent the spread of the flu, and we also encourage people to wash their hands, cover their cough, and stay home when they're ill to keep the virus from spreading. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that between **9.2** and **35.6** million people get the flu each year and **12,000** to **56,000** die from it.