

# Outbreak: Top Worst Pandemics in History

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC: 2018-PRESENT DAY

Death Toll: Still being determined

Cause: Covid-19

The disease causes respiratory illness (like the flu) with symptoms such as a cough, fever, and in more severe cases, difficulty breathing. You can protect yourself by washing your hands frequently, avoiding touching your face, and avoiding close contact. Coronavirus disease spreads primarily through contact with an infected person when they cough or sneeze. It also spreads when a person touches a surface or object that has the virus on it, then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth.



## ZIKA VIRUS EPIDEMIC: 2015-PRESENT DAY

Death Toll: Still being determined

Cause: Zika

The virus is usually spread through mosquitoes (and sexually in humans). Zika is usually not harmful to adults or children, it can attack infants who are still in the womb and cause birth defects.

## H1N1 SWINE FLU PANDEMIC (2009-2010)

Death Toll: 151,700 and 575,000

Cause: Swine Flu

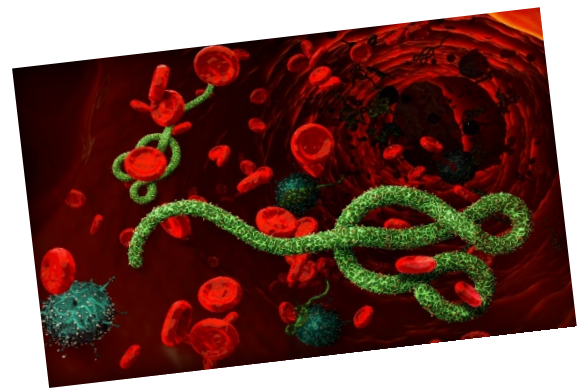
Caused by a new strain of H1N1 that originated in Mexico before spreading to the rest of the world. In one year, the virus infected as many as 1.4 billion people affecting children and young adults and 80% of the deaths were in people younger than 65. A vaccine for the H1N1 virus that caused the swine flu is now included in the annual flu vaccine.

## EBOLA EPIDEMIC (2014-2016)

Death Toll: 11,325

Cause: Ebola

Ebola ravaged West Africa between 2014 and 2016, with 28,600 reported cases. There is no cure for Ebola, finding a vaccine is ongoing. The virus may have originated in bats.



## HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC (PEAK, 2005-2012)

Death Toll: 36 million

Cause: HIV/AIDS

First identified in Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976, HIV/AIDS has truly proven itself as a global pandemic, killing more than 36 million people since 1981.

## FLU PANDEMIC (1968)

Death Toll: 1 million

Cause: Influenza

A category 2 Flu pandemic sometimes referred to as “the Hong Kong Flu,” the 1968 flu pandemic was caused by the H3N2 strain of the Influenza A virus, a genetic offshoot of the H2N2 subtype. From the first reported case on July 13, 1968 in Hong Kong, it took only 17 days before outbreaks of the virus were reported in Singapore and Vietnam, and within three months had spread to The Philippines, India, Australia, Europe, and the United States.

## ASIAN FLU (1956-1958)

Death Toll: 2 million

Cause: Influenza

Asian Flu was a pandemic outbreak of Influenza A of the H2N2 subtype, that originated in China in 1956 and lasted until 1958. In its two-year spree, Asian Flu traveled from the Chinese province of Guizhou to Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United States.

## SPANISH FLU PANDEMIC (1918-1920)

Death Toll: 20 -50 million

Cause: Influenza

Between 1918 and 1920 a disturbingly deadly outbreak of influenza tore across the globe, infecting over a third of the world's population and ending the lives of 20 – 50 million people, with up to 25 million deaths in the first 25 weeks alone. Influenza had always previously only killed juveniles and the elderly or already weakened patients, it had begun striking down hardy and completely healthy young adults, while leaving children and those with weaker immune systems still alive.



## CHOLERA PANDEMIC (1910-1911)

Death Toll: 800,000+

Cause: Cholera

Like its five previous incarnations, the Sixth Cholera Pandemic originated in India where it killed over 800,000, before spreading to the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Russia. Having learned from the past, quickly sought to isolate the infected, and in the end only 11 deaths occurred.



## FLU PANDEMIC (1889-1890)

Death Toll: 1 million

Cause: Influenza

Originally the “Asiatic Flu” or “Russian Flu” as it was called, this strain was thought to be an outbreak of the Influenza A virus subtype H2N2, though recent discoveries have instead found the cause to be the Influenza A virus subtype H3N8.

## THIRD CHOLERA PANDEMIC (1852–1860)

Death Toll: 1 million

Cause: Cholera

Generally considered the deadliest of the seven cholera pandemics, the third major outbreak of Cholera in the 19th century lasted from 1852 to 1860. Like the first and second pandemics, the Third Cholera Pandemic originated in India, eventually succeeded in identifying contaminated water.





## BUBONIC PLAGUE (1720-1723)

Death Toll: 150 million

Cause: Bubonic Plague

Historical records say the plague started when a ship docked in France was quarantined, the plague still got into the city, likely through fleas on plague-infected rodents. It's estimated that up to 30% of the population may have perished.

## THE BLACK DEATH (1346-1353)

Death Toll: 75 – 200 million

Cause: Bubonic Plague

From 1346 to 1353 an outbreak of the Plague ravaged Europe, Africa, and Asia, with an estimated death toll between 75 and 200 million people. Thought to have originated in Asia, the Plague most likely jumped continents via the fleas living on the rats that so frequently lived aboard merchant ships. Ports being major urban centers at the time, were the perfect breeding ground for the rats and fleas, and thus the insidious bacterium flourished, devastating three continents in its wake.

## PLAGUE OF JUSTINIAN (541-542)

Death Toll: 25 million

Cause: Bubonic Plague

Thought to have killed perhaps half the population of Europe, the Plague of Justinian was an outbreak of the bubonic plague that afflicted the Byzantine Empire and Mediterranean port cities, killing up to 25 million people in its year long reign of terror, at its height it was killing an estimated 5,000 people per day.



## ANTONINE PLAGUE (165 AD)

Death Toll: 5 million

Cause: Unknown

Also known as the Plague of Galen, the Antonine Plague was an ancient pandemic that affected Asia Minor, Egypt, Greece, and Italy and is thought to have been either Smallpox or Measles, though the true cause is still unknown. This unknown disease was brought back to Rome by soldiers returning from Mesopotamia around 165AD; unknowingly, they had spread a disease which would end up killing over 5 million people and decimating the Roman army.