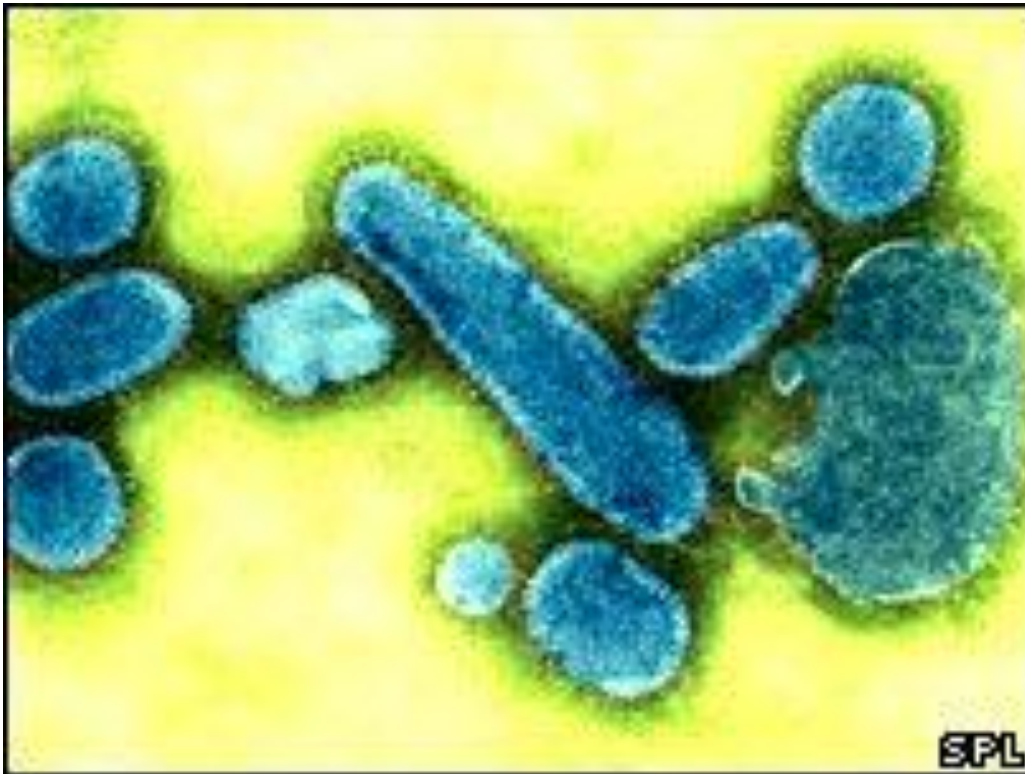


# **FLU PANDEMIC, 1918-1919**

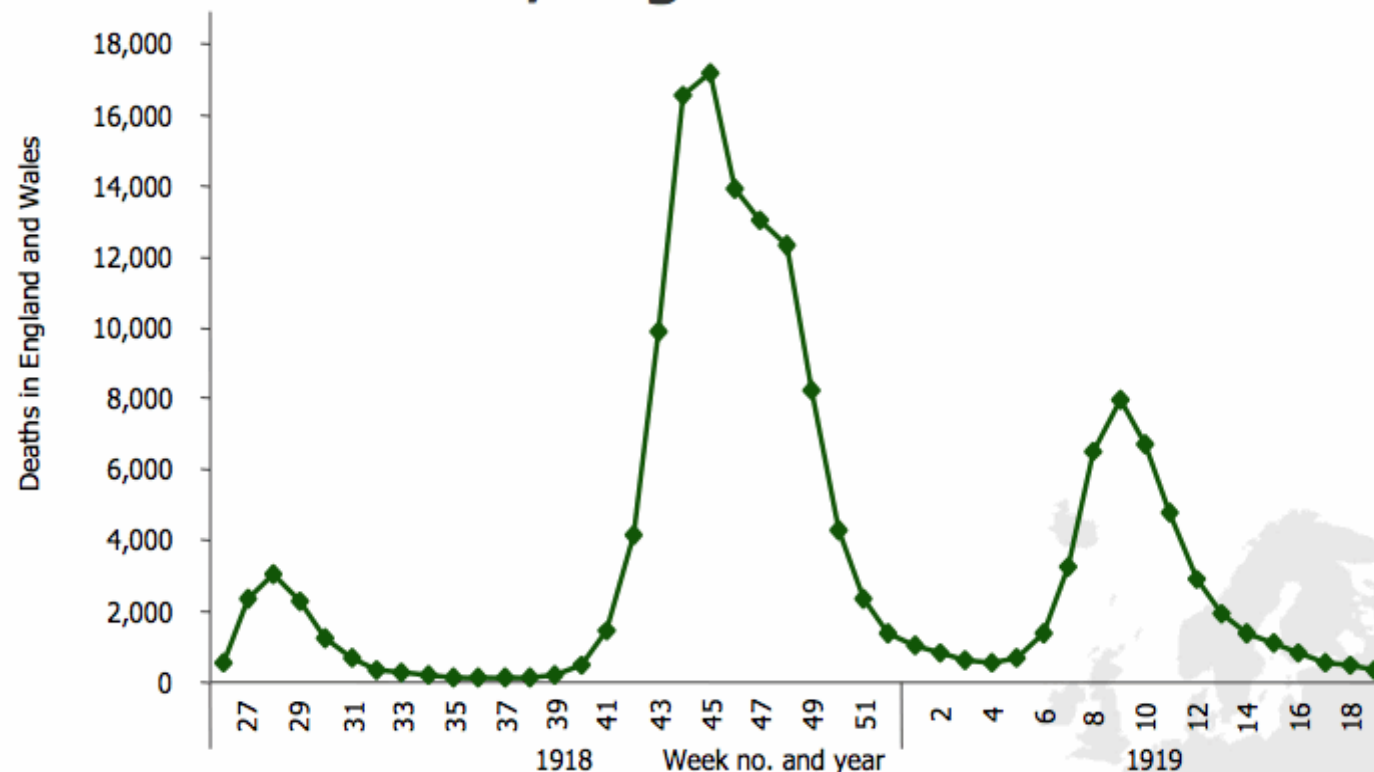
## **ONE OF THE DEADLIEST NATURAL DISASTERS IN HUMAN HISTORY, MORE KILLED THAN IN THE BLACK DEATH**

- Worldwide 500 million infected, of whom 50-100 million died
- 10-20% of those infected died
- Mainly healthy young adults aged 20-40 were killed by the flu
- In Britain 250,000 died
- The first recorded case was on 8 March 1918 in Kansas U.S.A.



- It was called 'Spanish' flu because it was given more publicity there
- News of the disease was suppressed by Britain and its allies
- In Europe it was spread by massive troop movements and close quarters in camps.
- 1st wave coincided with the arrival of American troops in Britain

# 1918/1919 pandemic: A(H1N1) influenza deaths, England and Wales



1918/19: 'Influenza deaths', England and Wales.  
The pandemic affected young adults, the very young  
and older age groups.

Transmissibility: estimated Basic Reproductive Number ( $R_0$ )  
 $R_0$  = 2-3 (US) Mills, Robins, Lipsitch (Nature 2004)  
 $R_0$  = 1.5-2 (UK) Gani et al (EID 2005)  
 $R_0$  = 1.5-1.8 (UK) Hall et al (Epidemiol. Infect. 2006)  
 $R_0$  = 1.5-3.7 (Geneva) Chowell et al (Vaccine 2006)

3 waves of flu, **most deaths in 2nd wave** – June into August  
 1918: 12 October/28 December 1918: 8 February/5 April 1919

## FLU DEATHS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

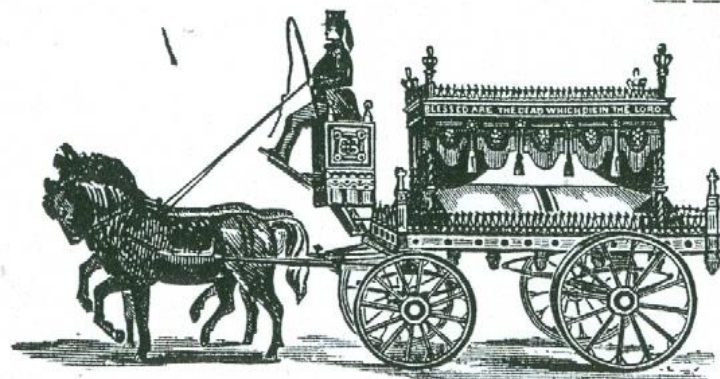
How many died of flu locally is unknown, but Elsie Clements' noted 2 deaths in her diary. Both came from the age group more likely to die of the disease – healthy 20-40 year olds. Both funerals were arranged by W. & T. Everest of Crockenhill.

- 26 October 1918 a great many cases of flu in and around the village.
- Mrs Ethel Agnes Barden from Wimbledon, aged 26, visiting the Gorrings at Partridges, Hulberry, died 18 October. The funeral was in the Baptist Chapel.
- Mrs Frances Elizabeth Peck, wife of Robert Peck, aged 32, died on 27 October. She was buried in Crockenhill churchyard.



911

Kent, ..... 190

Dr. to **W. & T. EVEREST,**



E. J. Crick & Co., Printers, Hawley, Kent.

*Wheelwrights, Smiths,   
Coach Builders Undertakers,  
 CROCKENHILL, SWANLEY. *

## **FLU AND CROCKENHILL SCHOOLS**

There is more evidence about schools through the logbooks and Managers' minutes.

- Schools were ordered to be closed from 22 October to 22 (later 25) November, 1918
- So they missed Armistice Day on 11 November 1918.

### **Crockenhill schools**

#### Crockenhill Church School

16 October 1918 - Attendance which had been good falling off as influenza has appeared in the village

24 October - Flu is on increase, attendance still somewhat bad

29 October - Attendance much worse. Flu greatly increased

30 October - School closed by order of the Medical Authority

25 November - School reopened

#### Crockenhill Council School

25 October 1918 - Over 100 absentees today chiefly through the outbreak of influenza

28 October - Received notice to close school until 1 November. Later extended to 22.

29 November - Reopened school

## FLU AND EYNSFORD SCHOOLS

### Eynsford Schools

- Eynsford Church School - See separate sheet
- Eynsford Council School log book entries below

- 30. Closed school to-day in common with the neighbouring schools until Friday 15th November on account of the prevailing epidemic of Influenza, by order of Dartford Rural Council.

Nov: 14th Received notice from Dr. Richmond (Med: Officer of Health) that the "Closure of School" is to extend to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 1918; a subsequent notice extended it another week.

## FLU AND EYNSFORD SCHOOLS

Oct 18 The Attendance has been good this week, although several children have been absent through sickness.

• 24 A number of children absent this week suffering from influenza

Miss Loveday H.M. Sub-Inspector visited on Wednesday morning.

Mr M.Y. Green visited on Thursday morning.

Oct 26 Medical Inspection this morning. Owing to so many children being absent with influenza it was decided to close the school

Oct 31 Notice was received from the Medical Officer of Health ordering the school to close until Nov 18th owing to the prevalence of Influenza.

Nov 25 School - re-opened this morning

• 29 Boys attended woodwork centre this morning instead of afternoon. Term Table deviated from in afternoon.

Attendance affected through rain on Thursday and Friday.

### **Eynsford Church School logbook**

18 October 1918 -

Sickness first mentioned.

24 October - Called flu.

30 October - Closed school so many absent.

31 October - Notice from Medical Officer of Health to close school until 11 November.

25 November - School reopened.

## **FLU AND FARNINGHAM SCHOOLS**

### **Farningham Schools**

#### **Farningham Council School**

21 October 1918 - Miss Payne away with influenza

22 October - Assistant teacher brought in. Attendance very low owing to flu

28 October - Numbers down to 40 at 9 am so registration delayed until 9.45 am, and then learnt all schools to be closed by order of the Medical Officer of Health.

#### **Farningham Church School**

17 October 1918 – As the Sutton School is closed for influenza, the Headmaster returned here pending further instructions

28 October - School closed for one week owing to sickness in the village

25 November - Continued closed until 25 November owing to the epidemic

26 November - Resumed charge of this School after being in charge of Sutton-at-Hone Boys' School since 6 June 1916

Farningham Council School Managers' Minutes reporting 'flu epidemic. School re-opened a day late due to lack of wood for fires

**FARNINGHAM**  
**SCHOOLS AND**  
**FLU**

Closure of  
School.

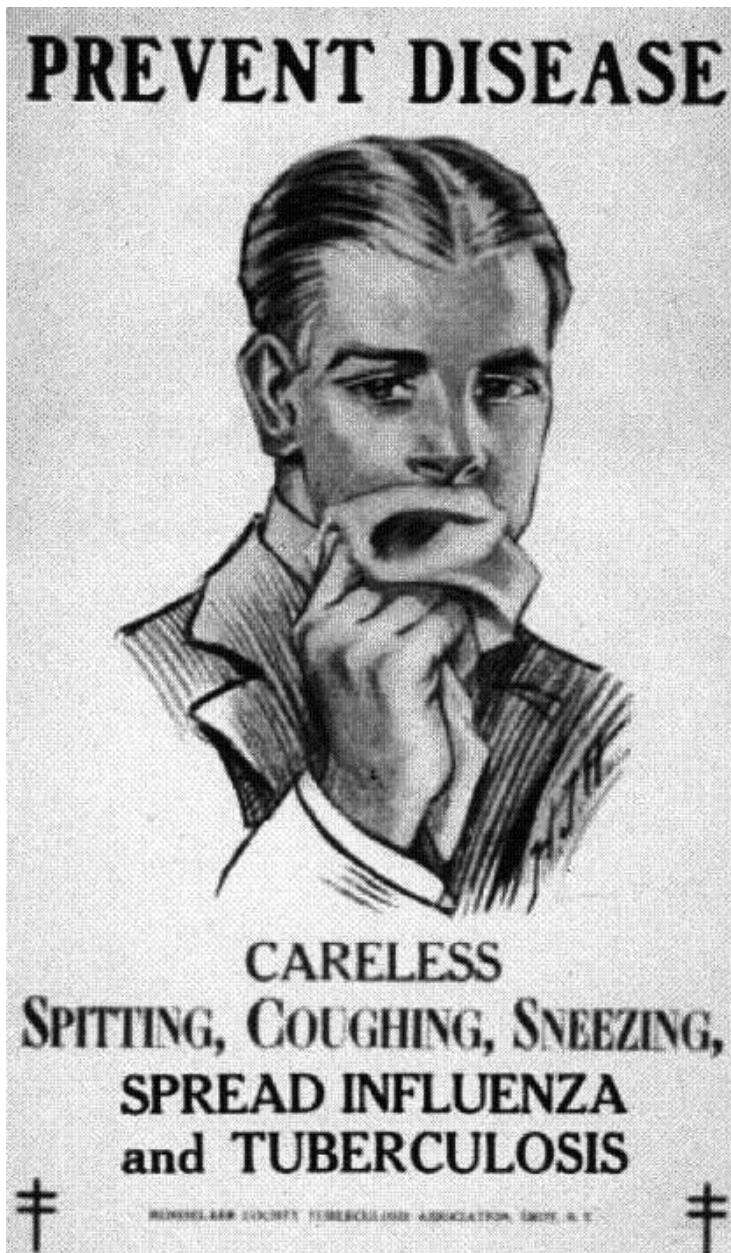
Head order dated October 29<sup>th</sup> from Dr. Richmond, Medical Officer of Health closing the school from Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> on account of the prevalence of Influenza.

The correspondent reported that the school had been closed accordingly.

The Head Teacher in his Report reports the closure of School, on November 25<sup>th</sup>, on account of the absence of fires, through failure of the wood supply.

The correspondent reported that the school re-opened on November 26<sup>th</sup>, he having, upon receipt of the Head Master's wire on the previous morning, conveyed from Sidcup a supply of firewood.

## FLU PANDEMIC



A new topical skipping rhyme was widely sung by children at this time:

I had a little bird  
Its name was Enza  
I opened the window  
And in-flu-enza

Its origins were an American rhyme from Massachusetts, published in 1894:-

There was a little girl, and she had a little bird,  
And she called it by the pretty name of Enza;  
But one day it flew away, but it didn't go to stay,  
For when she raised the window, in-flu-Enza.