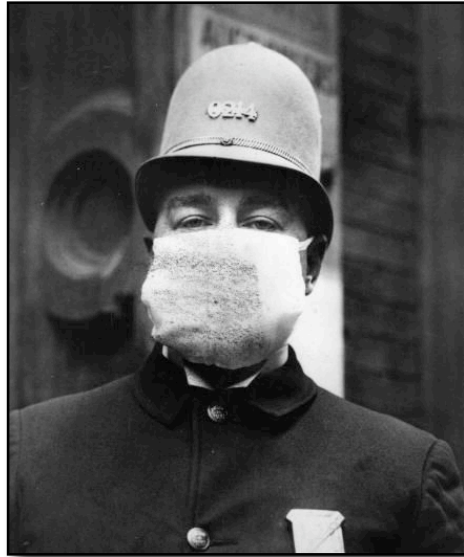


THE SPANISH FLU

SPANISH FLU EPIDEMIC

If things were not already bad enough, Canadians faced another disaster. An outbreak of a deadly virus called the Spanish flu swept the world. In the four years of World War One, more than 16 million people had died. By



Police Officer tries to protect himself against the Spanish flu

comparison, the

Spanish flu killed about 25 million people around the world in just a few months. The number included about 50,000 Canadians.



Police attempting to protect against the flu

The impact of the

Spanish flu may not have been as devastating had WWI never happened. With so many soldiers returning home from the battlefields of Europe, they all became carriers of the deadly disease. Each community the soldiers returned to were exposed to the Spanish flu allowing it to spread like wild fire. Had the war not happened, the disease would likely have taken much longer to spread from country to country and across the oceans - but will thousands and thousands of soldiers going home the flu quickly travelled around the world in a few short months.

How did WWI help spread the Spanish flu around the world so quickly.

EMERGENCY ACTION



Hundreds gather outside a church to pray against the spread of Spanish flu

To stop the spread of the flu, schools, theatres and churches closed their doors. Some communities tried to set up a total **quarantines** allowing no one to travel in



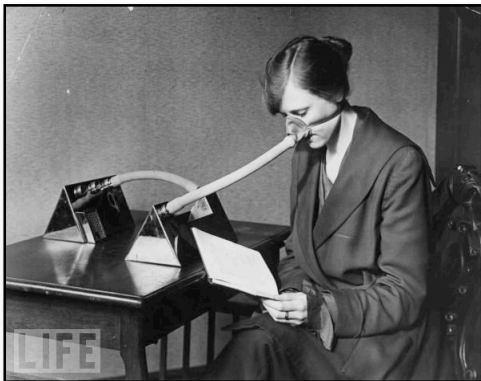
Emergency tent clinics to deal with the dead and those dying from Spanish flu

or out, while in some cities people were ordered to wear gauze masks in public. Public health departments and clinics across the country were flooded with the numbers of sick and dying.

What were some of the ways people tried to stop the spread of the Spanish flu?

How do these actions sound similar to those taken during modern outbreaks of diseases?

What is done differently today when trying to stop an outbreak of disease?



Woman using an 'air purifying' machine that was supposed to make air safer to breathe



Spraying the top of a bus with an 'anti-flu' chemical



Modern-day approach to containing Swine flu (H1N1) – Does it look similar to the picture on the left?