



"A Tale of Two Towns: How reflections of the past compare to current day pandemic public health policies"

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Gunnison, Gunnison County Spanish Influenza Pandemic Response:

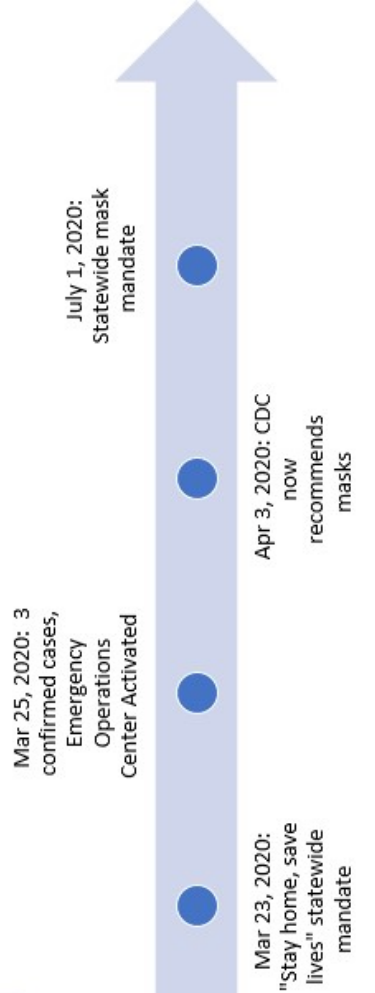
Discussion:
 Gunnison's success in limiting infections and deaths compared to towns across the U.S. during the Spanish Influenza pandemic was tied to early action and strict imposition of a protective sequestration. Newspaper reports at the time state that roadways into the county were physically blocked and a 2 day quarantine was required for those who passed through. The town's remote location and small population added to the sequestration's protective effects. In comparing this to the Roseburg, OR response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we see a few key differences. While Oregon in general responded quickly with a "stay home, stay safe" quarantine mandate 2 days before the first cases of COVID were confirmed in Douglas county, the physical and political limitations prohibited implementation of an austere sequestration as seen in Gunnison in 1918. However, the large community response comprised of early drive-thru testing, increased telehealth appointments and formation of cough and fever clinic's worked to secure healthcare workers safety, patient safety, and limited overburdening hospital facilities.



Location	Population	Cases/Rate	Deaths/Rate
Gunnison County (sequestered)	5,590	2 cases (.4 per 1,000)	1 death (.2 per 1,000)
Gunnison County (total)	5,590	142 cases-estimate (25 per 1,000)	6 deaths (1 per 1,000)
Douglas County (total)	110,980	2,691 cases (24 per 1,000)	58 deaths (.5 per 1,000)

Citations:
 1) "Gunnison: U-M Center for the History of Medicine." *1918 Influenza Escape Communities- Gunnison*.
 2) "COVID-19." *Douglas County/ DPHN Special Reports*, 12 Mar. 2021.
 3) "U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Douglas County, Oregon." *Census Bureau QuickFacts*.
 4) "COVID-19 Episode 4: Rapid Rural Response with Dr Chip Taylor. May 12, 2020." *Society of Teachers of Family Medicine- Podcasts*, 12 May 2020.

Roseburg, Douglas County COVID-19 Pandemic Response



Mar 13, 2020: Oregon schools closed per Governor mandate

Mar 17, 2020: COVID testing drive thru in Douglas County

Feb 28, 2020: 1st confirmed COVID case in Oregon