

A Historical Comparison of Outbreak in Alma Between 1905 and 2019

by Laura Beckman

I have decided to do my research project on the history of illness in Alma during the year 1905. I will be attempting to answer the question of how 1905 compares to 2019 in terms of the different health crises. During the year 1905 the college experienced a wave of sickness that killed a handful of Alma College members. Although we have not lost anyone to this pandemic, it is fascinating to compare how Covid-19 has affected Alma and how that differs or mirrors the year 1905. I hope to gain a better understanding of how Alma dealt with the tribulations of a health crisis and how that compares to our progress today. I will be utilizing *The Almanian* and the *Alma Record* to conduct my research. This will allow me to gain perspective of those who experienced 1905 and as a person who experienced the pandemic on campus, I will be able to determine the similarities and differences. I am expecting to discover that they didn't have a solid grip on how to handle such a complex medical problem. I can imagine that the emotions people had were somewhat similar to today's experience. I have yet to complete all my research, but I expect to see some overlap with the way these circumstances were handled.