

Death Rates in Relation to Diseases Present in Alma, MI in 1905

by Rachel Moran

The topic for my research study will be in relation to diseases that altered the death rate of Almaniens in 1905. In regard to the current pandemic I thought it would be interesting to research diseases present during this timeframe that could have significantly altered the death rate of humans in 1905.

When searching for a research topic, I came across an article from the *Alma Record* from February 24, 1905 discussing the current death rate and the specifics of the typhoid fever, influenza and diphtheria.

The central questions I will be researching during this study are what diseases were most common, easily spread, causing high fatality rates and methods of disease prevention. I will uncover the pathophysiology of these diseases and define the characteristics of disease prevention and methods of spread. Through this, I will relate these diseases to our current pandemic.

The goals for my research are to relate these diseases in relation to the current COVID-19 pandemic and the effect it has had on not only Alma College but the Alma community. I plan to define these disease processes while emphasizing the diseases that most contributed to fatality in the Alma community.

My research will primarily be based on the *Alma Record*. Using this information allows for a clear definition of the diseases present during this time in relation to fatality and common illnesses.

As my research is still in progress, I will continue to identify diseases present during 1905 and the pathophysiology that defines the disease processes and methods of spreading. With this information, it will be possible to identify fatality causes and rates within the Alma community. Mainly, influenza has been a large contribution to the fatality rates in Alma with exceptions to illnesses that have herd immunity currently from use of vaccinations and disease prevention.

- *Alma Record*. (Alma, Mich.), 24 Feb. 1905. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85038709/1905-02-24/ed-1/seq-1/>>