Influenza

More dangerous than people think

What do we learn from history?

- Devastating impact of the 1918 flu pandemic.
- Killed more people than WW1, between 20 and 40 million people
- Most devastating pandemic in the history of the world
- Researchers trying to identify the virus from previous victims
- Two very different approaches
- Possibly very different motivations
- I want you to move into the present and future and consider what a large scale influenza pandemic would mean.

Effect of 1918 flu on life expectancy

Dr. Michael Osterholm

- Dr. Osterholm is director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy
- director of the NIH-supported Minnesota Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance (MCEIRS), a professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences
- and an adjunct professor in the Medical School, University of Minnesota.
- In June 2005 Dr. Osterholm was appointed by Michael Leavitt, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to the newly established National Science Advisory Board on Biosecurity.
- In October 2008 he was appointed to the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Council on Pandemics; he serves as chair of that council.

Some thoughts on pandemic influenza

- Here are two quotes from Dr. Osterholm worth considering as you watch his lecture:
  - Even if you take every year the problems of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, which are horrible, pandemic influenza has the potential in just one fell swoop to kill so many more people than those diseases kill in decades."
  - To believe that you can contain this locally is to believe in fairy tales.