100 Years Later: A Pandemic in 2018

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Pandemic Flu that infected one-third of the world’s population. How does this devastating outbreak compare to today’s global conditions?

1918 PANDEMIC FLU vs 2018 HYPOTHETICAL

**Zoonotic Diseases**
New viral threat crossed over from animals to humans.

**Population density and urban sprawl increases risks of viral threats crossing over from animals to humans.**

**Person-to-Person**
Poor sanitation and limited health services facilitated infectious disease transfer.

**With the population three times that of 1918, overcrowding and megacities enhance disease transmission.**

**Transportation**
Migrant workers and WWI troops transported by trains and ships contributed to the spread of the flu to Europe and around the globe.

**Global Transmission**
High frequency global travel accelerates disease spread.

**Treatment**
Lack of vaccines, diagnostics, and antibiotics limited the ability to contain the outbreak.

**Ability to treat diseases has improved, but the current infrastructure is inadequate.**

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**Bioterrorism?**
The Clade X exercise, simulating a pandemic caused by terrorists, predicted 150 million fatalities worldwide in the first year of a pandemic without a countermeasure, three times higher than the estimated total deaths from the 1918 Spanish Flu.
(Source: John Hopkins Center for Health Security)

**Global Casualties:**

- **Spanish Flu vs Clade X Exercise**
  - 150 Million (Clade X)
  - 50 Million (1918 Spanish Flu)

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Created by CNSO
Funded by NTI