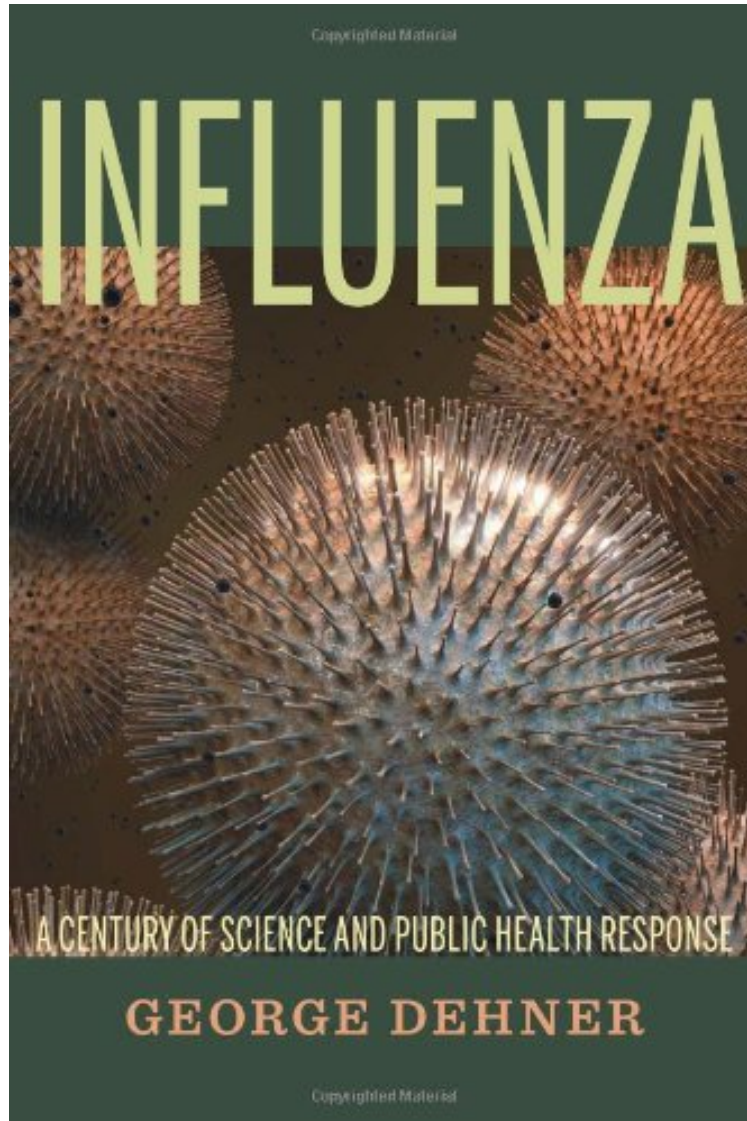


(Read and download) Influenza: A Century of Science and Public Health Response

Influenza: A Century of Science and Public Health Response

George Dehner

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George Dehner : Influenza: A Century of Science and Public Health Response before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Influenza: A Century of Science and Public Health Response:

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In 1976, the outbreak of a new strain of swine flu at the Fort Dix, New Jersey, army base prompted an unprecedented inoculation campaign. Some forty-two million Americans were vaccinated as the National Influenza Immunization Program hastened to prevent a pandemic, while the World Health Organization (WHO) took a wait-and-see approach. Fortunately, the virus did not spread, and only one death occurred. But instead of being lauded, American actions were subsequently denounced as a fiasco and instigator of mass panic. In *Influenza*, George Dehner examines the wide disparity in national and international responses to influenza pandemics, from the Russian flu of 1889 to the swine flu outbreak in 2009. He chronicles the technological and institutional progress made along the way and shows how these developments can shape an effective future policy. Early pandemic response relied on methods of quarantine and individual scientific research. In the aftermath of World War II, a consensus for cooperation and shared resources led to the creation of the WHO, under the auspices of the United Nations. Today, the WHO maintains a large and proactive role in responding to influenza outbreaks. International pandemic response, however, is only as strong as its weakest national link most recently evidenced in the failed early detection of the 2009 swine flu in Mexico and the delayed reporting of the 2002 SARS outbreak in China. As Dehner's study contends, the hard lessons of the past highlight the need for a coordinated early warning system with full disclosure, shared technologies, and robust manufacturing capabilities. Until the national aspect can be removed from the international equation, responses will be hampered, and a threat to an individual remains a threat to all.

Flu shots are an autumn ritual for millions of Americans, but few know the history of the battle against influenza waged by physicians and public health officers around the globe over the past 120 years. Dehner explains how past pandemics, which increasingly shaped reliance upon vaccination and surveillance as prevention, evolved from local to regional to national to international responsibility. All those interested in the history of disease and the history of public health will benefit from his rich discussion of how today's globalism is again changing how quickly diseases spread as well as the politics and requirements of influenza prevention. Alan M. Kraut, American University