



List of epidemics

This is a list of the largest known epidemics and pandemics caused by an infectious disease. Widespread non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease and cancer are not included. An epidemic is the rapid spread of disease to a large number of people in a given population within a short period of time; in meningococcal infections, an attack rate in excess of 15 cases per 100,000 people for two consecutive weeks is considered an epidemic.^[1] Due to the long time spans, the first plague pandemic (6th century – 8th century) and the second plague pandemic (14th century – early 19th century) are shown by individual outbreaks, such as the Plague of Justinian (first pandemic) and the Black Death (second pandemic).

Major epidemics and pandemics

By death toll

Extant epidemics are in **boldface**. For a given epidemic, the average of its estimated death toll range is used for ranking. If the death toll averages of two or more epidemics are equal, then the smaller the range, the higher the rank. For the historical records of major changes in the world population, see world population.^{[2][3]}



17th-century German "plague panel" depicting the triumph of death. Panels of this kind were placed on the walls of houses to warn against the plague. A plague epidemic raged in Augsburg, Bavaria, between 1632 and 1635.

Epidemics and pandemics with at least 1 million deaths

Rank	Epidemics/pandemics	Disease	Death toll	Global population lost	Regional population lost	Date	Location
1	<u>Black Death</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	75–200 million	17–54% ^[a]	30–60% of European population ^[4]	1346–1353	Europe, Asia, and North Africa
2	<u>Spanish flu</u>	<u>Influenza A/H1N1</u>	17–100 million	1–5.4% ^{[5][6]}	–	1918–1920	<u>Worldwide</u>
3	<u>Plague of Justinian</u>	Bubonic plague	15–100 million	7–56% ^[a]	25–60% of European population ^[7]	541–549	North Africa, Europe and Western Asia
4	<u>HIV/AIDS epidemic</u>	<u>HIV/AIDS</u>	40.1 million (as of 2021)	^[b]	–	1981–present	<u>Worldwide</u>
5	<u>COVID-19 pandemic</u>	<u>COVID-19</u>	7–29 million (as of March 2023)	0.1–0.4%^[2]	–	2019^[c]–present	<u>Worldwide</u>
6	<u>Third plague pandemic</u>	Bubonic plague	12–15 million	^[b]	–	1855–1960	<u>Worldwide</u>
7	<u>Cocoliztli epidemic of 1545–1548</u>	Cocoliztli	5–15 million	1–3% ^[a]	27–80% of Mexican population ^[9]	1545–1548	Mexico
8	<u>Antonine Plague</u>	<u>Smallpox or measles</u>	5–10 million	3–6% ^[3]	25–33% of Roman population ^[10]	165–180 (possibly up to 190)	<u>Roman Empire</u>
9	<u>1520 Mexico smallpox epidemic</u>	Smallpox	5–8 million	1–2% ^[a]	23–37% of Mexican population ^[9]	1519–1520	<u>Mexico</u>
10	<u>1918–1922 Russia typhus epidemic</u>	<u>Typhus</u>	2–3 million	0.1–0.16% ^{[6][d]}	1–1.6% of Russian population ^[11]	1918–1922	<u>Russia</u>
11	<u>1957–1958 influenza pandemic</u>	<u>Influenza A/H2N2</u>	1–4 million	0.03–0.1% ^[2]	–	1957–1958	<u>Worldwide</u>
12	<u>Hong Kong flu</u>	<u>Influenza A/H3N2</u>	1–4 million	0.03–0.1% ^[2]	–	1968–1969	<u>Worldwide</u>
13	<u>Cocoliztli epidemic of 1576</u>	Cocoliztli	2–2.5 million	0.4–0.5% ^[3]	50% of Mexican population ^[9]	1576–1580	Mexico
14	<u>735–737 Japanese smallpox epidemic</u>	Smallpox	2 million	1% ^[3]	33% of Japanese population ^[12]	735–737	Japan
15	<u>1772–1773 Persian Plague</u>	Bubonic plague	2 million	0.2–0.3% ^[3]	^[e]	1772–1773	<u>Persia</u>
16	<u>Naples Plague</u>	Bubonic plague	1.25 million	0.2% ^[3]	^[e]	1656–1658	Southern Italy

Rank	Epidemics/pandemics	Disease	Death toll	Global population lost	Regional population lost	Date	Location
17	<u>1846–1860 cholera pandemic</u>	<u>Cholera</u>	1 million+	0.08% ^[3]	–	1846–1860	<u>Worldwide</u>
18	<u>1629–1631 Italian plague</u>	Bubonic plague	1 million	0.2% ^[3]	[e]	1629–1631	Italy
19	<u>1889–1890 flu pandemic</u>	Influenza (disputed) ^{[13][14]}	1 million	0.07% ^[3]	–	1889–1890	–

Depopulation of the Americas

Not included in the above table are many waves of deadly diseases brought by Europeans to the Americas and Caribbean. Western Hemisphere populations were decimated mostly by smallpox, but also typhus, measles, influenza, bubonic plague, cholera, malaria, tuberculosis, mumps, yellow fever, and pertussis. The lack of written records in many places and the destruction of many native societies by disease, war, and colonization make estimates uncertain. Deaths probably numbered in the tens or perhaps over a hundred million, with perhaps 90% of the population dead in the worst-hit areas. Lack of scientific knowledge about microorganisms and lack of surviving medical records for many areas makes attribution of specific numbers to specific diseases uncertain.

Infectious diseases with high prevalence

There have been various major infectious diseases with high prevalence worldwide, but they are currently not listed in the above table as epidemics/pandemics due to the lack of definite data, such as time span and death toll.

- **Malaria** has had multiple documented temporary epidemics in otherwise non-affected or low-prevalence areas, but the vast majority of its deaths are due to its constant prevalence in affected areas. Throughout history, malaria may have killed 50–60 billion people, or about half of all humans that have ever lived.^[15]
- **Tuberculosis** (TB) became epidemic in Europe in the 18th and 19th century, showing a seasonal pattern, and is still taking place globally.^{[16][17][18]} The morbidity and mortality of TB and HIV/AIDS have been closely linked, known as "TB/HIV syndemic".^{[18][19]} According to the World Health Organization, approximately 10 million new TB infections occur every year, and 1.5 million people die from it each year – making it the world's top infectious killer (before COVID-19 pandemic).^[18] However, there is a lack of sources which describe major TB epidemics with definite time spans and death tolls.
- **Hepatitis B**: According to the World Health Organization, as of 2019 there are about 296 million people living with chronic , with 1.5 million new infections each year. In 2019, hepatitis B caused about 820,000 deaths, mostly from cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (primary liver cancer).^[20] In many places of Asia and Africa, hepatitis B has become endemic.^[21] In addition, a person is sometimes infected with both hepatitis B virus (HBV) and HIV, and this population (about 2.7 million) accounts for about 1% of the total HBV infections.^[20]
- **Hepatitis C**: According to the World Health Organization, there are approximately 58 million people with chronic hepatitis C, with about 1.5 million new infections occurring per year. In 2019, approximately 290,000 people died from the disease, mostly from cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (primary liver cancer).^[22] There have been many hepatitis C virus (HCV) epidemics in history.^{[23][24][25]}

Chronology

Events in **boldface** are ongoing.

Chronological table of epidemic and pandemic events in human history

Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
1350 BC plague of Megiddo	1350 BC	Megiddo, land of <u>Canaan</u>	Amarna letters EA 244, Biridiya, mayor of Megiddo complains to Amenhotep III of his area being "consumed by death, plague and dust"	Unknown	[26]
<u>Plague of Athens</u>	430–426 BC	Greece, Libya, Egypt, <u>Ethiopia</u>	Unknown, possibly <u>typhus</u> , <u>typhoid fever</u> or <u>viral hemorrhagic fever</u>	75,000–100,000	[27][28][29][30]
<u>412 BC epidemic</u>	412 BC	Greece (Northern Greece, Roman Republic)	Unknown, possibly <u>influenza</u>	Unknown	[31]
<u>Antonine Plague</u>	165–180 (possibly up to 190)	<u>Roman Empire</u>	Unknown, possibly <u>smallpox</u>	5–10 million	[32][33]
Jian'an Plague	217	<u>Han Dynasty</u>	Unknown, possibly <u>typhoid fever</u> or <u>viral hemorrhagic fever</u>	Unknown	[34][35]
<u>Plague of Cyprian</u>	249–262	Europe	Unknown, possibly <u>smallpox</u>	310,000	[36][37]
<u>Plague of Justinian (beginning of first plague pandemic)</u>	541–549	Europe and <u>West Asia</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	15–100 million	[7][38][39]
<u>Roman Plague of 590 (part of first plague pandemic)</u>	590	Rome, <u>Byzantine Empire</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	Unknown	[40]
<u>Plague of Sheroe (part of First plague pandemic)</u>	627–628	<u>Bilad al-Sham</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	25,000+	
<u>Plague of Amwas (part of first plague pandemic)</u>	638–639	<u>Byzantine Empire</u> , <u>West Asia</u> , <u>Africa</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	25,000+	[41]
<u>Plague of 664 (part of first plague pandemic)</u>	664–689	<u>British Isles</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	Unknown	[42]
<u>Plague of 698–701 (part of first plague pandemic)</u>	698–701	<u>Byzantine Empire</u> , <u>West Asia</u> , <u>Syria</u> , <u>Mesopotamia</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	Unknown	[43]
<u>735–737 Japanese smallpox epidemic</u>	735–737	Japan	<u>Smallpox</u>	2 million (approx. 1/3 of Japanese population)	[12][44]
<u>Plague of 746–747 (part of first plague pandemic)</u>	746–747	<u>Byzantine Empire</u> , <u>West Asia</u> , <u>Africa</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	Unknown	[41]
<u>Black Death (start of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1346–1353	<u>Eurasia</u> and <u>North Africa</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>  <u>Yersinia pestis</u> <u>bacterium</u>	75–200 million (30–60% of European population)	[45]

Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
Sweating sickness (multiple outbreaks)	1485–1551	Britain (England) and later continental Europe	Unknown, possibly an unknown species of <u>hantavirus</u>	10,000+	[46]
1489 Spain typhus epidemic	1489	<u>Spain</u>	<u>Typhus</u>	17,000	[47]
<u>1510 influenza pandemic</u>	1510	Asia, North Africa, Europe	<u>Influenza</u>	Unknown, around 1% of those infected	[48]
<u>1520 Mexico smallpox epidemic</u>	1519–1520	<u>Mexico</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	5–8 million (40% of population)	[9]
<u>Cocoliztli epidemic of 1545–1548</u>	1545–1548	<u>Mexico</u>	Possibly <i>Salmonella enterica</i>	5–15 million (80% of population)	[49][50][51][52]
<u>1557 influenza pandemic</u>	1557–1559	Asia, Africa, Europe, and Americas	<u>Influenza</u>	Unknown	
1561 Chile smallpox epidemic	1561–1562	<u>Chile</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	Unknown (20–25% of native population)	[53]
1563 London plague (part of the second plague pandemic)	1563–1564	<u>London, England</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	20,100+	[54]
<u>Cocoliztli epidemic of 1576</u>	1576–1580	<u>Mexico</u>	Possibly <i>Salmonella enterica</i>	2–2.5 million (50% of population)	[49][50][51][52]
1582 Tenerife plague epidemic (part of the second plague pandemic)	1582–1583	<u>Tenerife, Spain</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	5,000–9,000	[55]
1592–1596 Seneca nation measles epidemic	1592–1596	<u>Seneca nation, North America</u>	<u>Measles</u>	Unknown	[56]
<u>1592–1593 Malta plague epidemic (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1592–1593	<u>Malta</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	3,000	[57]
<u>1592–1593 London plague (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1592–1593	<u>London, England</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	19,900+	[58]
1596–1602 Spain plague epidemic (part of the second plague pandemic)	1596–1602	<u>Spain</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	600,000–700,000	[59]
1600–1650 South America malaria epidemic	1600–1650	South America	<u>Malaria</u>	Unknown	
1603 London plague epidemic (part of the second plague pandemic)	1603	<u>London, England</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	40,000	[60][61][62]

Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
1616 New England infections epidemic	1616–1620	<u>Southern New England, British North America, especially the Wampanoag people</u>	Unknown, possibly <u>leptospirosis with Weil syndrome</u> . Classic explanations include <u>yellow fever, bubonic plague, influenza, smallpox, chickenpox, typhus, and syndemic infection of hepatitis B and hepatitis D</u>	Unknown (estimated 30–90% of population)	[63][64]
<u>1629–1631 Italian plague (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1629–1631	<u>Italy</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	1 million	[65]
<u>1632–1635 Augsburg plague epidemic (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1632–1635	<u>Augsburg, Germany</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	13,712	[66]
<u>Massachusetts smallpox epidemic</u>	1633–1634	<u>Massachusetts Bay Colony, Thirteen Colonies</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	1,000	[67]
<u>1634–1640 Wyandot people epidemic</u>	1634–1640	<u>Wyandot people, North America</u>	<u>Smallpox and Influenza</u>	15,000–25,000	[68]
<u>1637 London plague epidemic (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1636–1637	<u>London and Westminster, England</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	10,400	[69]
<u>Great Plague in the late Ming dynasty (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1633–1644	<u>China</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	200,000+	[70][71]
<u>Great Plague of Seville (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1647–1652	<u>Spain</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	500,000	[72]
<u>1648 Central America yellow fever epidemic</u>	1648	<u>Central America</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	Unknown	[73]
<u>Naples Plague (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1656–1658	<u>Italy</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	1,250,000	[74]
<u>1663–1664 Amsterdam plague epidemic (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1663–1664	<u>Amsterdam, Netherlands</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	24,148	[75]
<u>Great Plague of London (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1665–1666	<u>England</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	100,000	[76][77]
<u>1668 France plague (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1668	<u>France</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	40,000	[78]

Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
<u>1675–1676 Malta plague epidemic (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1675–1676	<u>Malta</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	11,300	[79]
<u>1676–1685 Spain plague (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1676–1685	<u>Spain</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	Unknown	[80]
<u>1677–1678 Boston smallpox epidemic</u>	1677–1678	<u>Massachusetts Bay Colony, British North America</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	750–1,000	[81]
<u>Great Plague of Vienna (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1679	<u>Vienna, Austria</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	76,000	[82]
<u>1681 Prague plague epidemic (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1681	<u>Prague, Czech Kingdom</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	83,000	[83]
<u>1687 South Africa influenza outbreak</u>	1687	<u>South Africa</u>	Unknown, possibly <u>influenza</u>	Unknown	[84]
<u>1693 Boston yellow fever epidemic</u>	1693	<u>Boston, Massachusetts Bay Colony, British North America</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	3,100+	[85]
<u>1699 Charleston and Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic</u>	1699	<u>Charleston and Philadelphia, British North America</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	520 (300 in Charleston, 220 in Philadelphia)	[86]
<u>1702 New York City yellow fever epidemic</u>	1702	<u>New York City, British North America</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	500	[87]
<u>1702–1703 St. Lawrence Valley smallpox epidemic</u>	1702–1703	<u>New France, Canada</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	1,300	[88]
<u>1707–1709 Iceland smallpox epidemic</u>	1707–1709	<u>Iceland</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	18,000+ (36% of population)	[89]
<u>Great Northern War plague outbreak (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1710–1712	<u>Denmark, Sweden, Lithuania</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	164,000	[90][91]
<u>1713–1715 North America measles epidemic</u>	1713–1715	<u>Thirteen Colonies and New France, Canada</u>	<u>Measles</u>	Unknown	[92][93]
<u>Great Plague of Marseille (part of the second plague pandemic)</u>	1720–1722	<u>France</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	100,000+	[94]
<u>1721 Boston smallpox outbreak</u>	1721–1722	<u>Massachusetts Bay Colony</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	844	[95]
<u>1730 Cádiz yellow fever epidemic</u>	1730	<u>Cádiz, Spain</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	2,200	[96]


Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
1732–1733 Thirteen Colonies influenza epidemic	1732–1733	<u>Thirteen Colonies</u>	<u>Influenza</u>	Unknown	[97]
1733 New France smallpox epidemic	1733	<u>New France, Canada</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	Unknown	[98]
1735–1741 diphtheria epidemic	1735–1741	<u>New England, Province of New York, Province of New Jersey, British North America</u>	<u>Diphtheria</u>	20,000	[99]
<u>Great Plague of 1738</u> (part of the <u>second plague pandemic</u>)	1738	<u>Balkans</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	50,000	[100]
1738–1739 <u>North Carolina smallpox epidemic</u>	1738–1739	<u>Province of Carolina, Thirteen Colonies</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	7,700–11,700	[101]
1741 Cartagena yellow fever epidemic	1741	<u>Cartagena, Colombia</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	20,000	[102]
1743 Sicily plague epidemic (part of the <u>second plague pandemic</u>)	1743	<u>Messina, Sicily, Italy</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	40,000–50,000	[103][104]
1759 North America measles outbreak	1759	<u>North America</u>	<u>Measles</u>	Unknown	[105]
1760 Charleston smallpox epidemic	1760	<u>Charleston, British North America</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	730–940	[106][107]
1762 Havana yellow fever epidemic	1762	<u>Havana, Cuba</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	8,000	[102]
1763 Pittsburgh area smallpox outbreak	1763	<u>North America, present-day Pittsburgh area</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	Unknown	[108]
1770–1772 <u>Russian plague</u> (part of the <u>second plague pandemic</u>)	1770–1772	<u>Russia</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	50,000	[109]
1772 North America measles epidemic	1772	<u>North America</u>	<u>Measles</u>	1,080	[110]
1772–1773 <u>Persian Plague</u> (part of the <u>second plague pandemic</u>)	1772–1773	<u>Persia</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	2 million	[111]
1775–1776 England influenza outbreak	1775–1776	<u>England</u>	<u>Influenza</u>	Unknown	[112]
1775–1782 <u>North American smallpox epidemic</u>	1775–1782	<u>Native populations in what is now the Pacific Northwest</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	11,000+	[113][114]

Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
		of the United States			
1778 Spain dengue fever outbreak	1778	Spain	<u>Dengue fever</u>	Unknown	[115]
1788 Pueblo Indians smallpox epidemic	1788	Pueblo Indians in northern New Spain (what is now the <u>Southwestern United States</u>)	<u>Smallpox</u>	Unknown	[116]
1789–1790 New South Wales smallpox epidemic	1789–1790	<u>New South Wales, Australia</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	Unknown (50–70% of native population)	[117][118]
1793 Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic	1793	Philadelphia, United States	<u>Yellow fever</u>	5,000+	[119]
1800–1803 Spain yellow fever epidemic	1800–1803	Spain	<u>Yellow fever</u>	60,000+	[120]
1801 Ottoman Empire and Egypt bubonic plague epidemic	1801	<u>Ottoman Empire, Egypt</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	Unknown	[121]
1802–1803 Saint-Domingue yellow fever epidemic	1802–1803	<u>Saint-Domingue</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	29,000–55,000	[122]
1812 Russia typhus epidemic	1812	<u>Russia</u>	<u>Typhus</u>	300,000	[47]
1812–1819 Ottoman plague epidemic (part of the <u>second plague pandemic</u>)	1812–1819	<u>Ottoman Empire</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	300,000+	[123]
1813–1814 Malta plague epidemic (part of the <u>second plague pandemic</u>)	1813–1814	<u>Malta</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	4,500	[124]
Caragea's plague (part of the <u>second plague pandemic</u>)	1813	<u>Romania</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	60,000	[125]
1817–1819 Ireland typhus epidemic	1817–1819	Ireland	<u>Typhus</u>	65,000	[126]
First cholera pandemic	1817–1824	Asia, Europe	<u>Cholera</u>	100,000+	[127]
1820 Savannah yellow fever epidemic	1820	<u>Savannah, Georgia, United States</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	700	[128]
1821 Barcelona yellow fever epidemic	1821	<u>Barcelona, Spain</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	5,000–20,000	[129][130]
Second cholera pandemic	1826–1837	Asia, Europe, North America	<u>Cholera</u>	100,000+	[131]
1828–1829 New South Wales	1828–1829	<u>New South Wales, Australia</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	19,000	[132][133]

Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
smallpox epidemic					
<u>Groningen epidemic</u>	1829	Netherlands	<u>Malaria</u>	2,800	[134]
1829–1833 Pacific Northwest malaria epidemic	1829–1833	Pacific Northwest, United States	<u>Malaria</u> , possibly other diseases too	150,000	[135][136]
1829–1835 Iran plague outbreak	1829–1835	<u>Iran</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	Unknown	[137]
1834–1836 Egypt plague epidemic	1834–1836	<u>Egypt</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	Unknown	[138]
1837 Great Plains smallpox epidemic	1837–1838	Great Plains, United States and Canada	<u>Smallpox</u>	17,000+	[139]
1841 Southern United States yellow fever epidemic	1841	Southern United States (especially <u>Louisiana</u> and <u>Florida</u>)	<u>Yellow fever</u>	3,498	[140]
1847 North American typhus epidemic	1847–1848	Canada	<u>Typhus</u>	20,000+	[141]
1847 Southern United States yellow fever epidemic	1847	Southern United States (especially <u>New Orleans</u>)	<u>Yellow fever</u>	3,400	[142]
1847–1848 influenza epidemic	1847–1848	<u>Worldwide</u>	<u>Influenza</u>	Unknown	[143]
1848–1849 Hawaii epidemic of infections	1848–1849	<u>Hawaiian Kingdom</u>	<u>Measles</u> , <u>whooping cough</u> , <u>dysentery</u> and <u>influenza</u>	10,000	[144]
1853 New Orleans yellow fever epidemic	1853	<u>New Orleans</u> , United States	<u>Yellow fever</u>	7,970	[129]
<u>Third cholera pandemic</u>	1846–1860	<u>Worldwide</u>	<u>Cholera</u>	1 million+	[145]
1853 Ottoman Empire plague epidemic	1853	<u>Ottoman Empire</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	Unknown	[146]
1853 Copenhagen cholera outbreak	1853	<u>Copenhagen</u> , Denmark	<u>Cholera</u>	4,737	[147]
1854 Broad Street cholera outbreak	1854	<u>London</u> , England	<u>Cholera</u>	616	[148]
1855 Norfolk yellow fever epidemic	1855	<u>Norfolk</u> and <u>Portsmouth</u> , England	<u>Yellow fever</u>	3,000 (2,000 in Norfolk, 1,000 in Portsmouth)	[149]
<u>Third plague pandemic</u>	1855–1960	<u>Worldwide</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	12–15 million (India and China)	[150][151]
1855–1857 Montevideo yellow fever epidemic	1855–1857	<u>Montevideo</u> , <u>Uruguay</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	3,400 (first wave; 900, second wave; 2,500)	[152]

Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
1857 Lisbon yellow fever epidemic	1857	<u>Lisbon, Portugal</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	6,000	[129]
1857 Victoria smallpox epidemic	1857	<u>Victoria, Australia</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	Unknown	[153]
1857–1859 Europe and the Americas influenza epidemic	1857–1859	Europe, North America, South America	<u>Influenza</u>	Unknown	[154]
1862 Pacific Northwest smallpox epidemic	1862–1863	<u>Pacific Northwest, Canada and United States</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	20,000+	[155][156][157]
1861–1865 United States typhoid fever epidemic	1861–1865	United States	<u>Typhoid fever</u>	80,000	[158]
Fourth cholera pandemic	1863–1875	<u>Middle East</u>	<u>Cholera</u>	600,000	[159]
1867 Sydney measles epidemic	1867	<u>Sydney, Australia</u>	<u>Measles</u>	748	[160]
1871 Buenos Aires yellow fever epidemic	1871	<u>Buenos Aires, Argentina</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	13,500–26,200	[161]
1870–1875 Europe smallpox epidemic	1870–1875	Europe	<u>Smallpox</u>	500,000	[162][163]
1875 Fiji measles outbreak	1875	<u>Fiji</u>	<u>Measles</u>	40,000	[164]
1875–1876 Australia scarlet fever epidemic	1875–1876	Australia	<u>Scarlet fever</u>	8,000	[160]
1876 Ottoman Empire plague epidemic	1876	<u>Ottoman Empire</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	20,000	[165]
1878 New Orleans yellow fever epidemic	1878	<u>New Orleans, United States</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	4,046	[122]
1878 Mississippi Valley yellow fever epidemic	1878	<u>Mississippi Valley, United States</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	13,000	[122]
Fifth cholera pandemic	1881–1896	Asia, Africa, Europe, South America	<u>Cholera</u>	298,600	[166]
1885 Montreal smallpox epidemic	1885	<u>Montreal, Canada</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	3,164	[167]
1889–1890 pandemic	1889–1890	<u>Worldwide</u>	<u>Influenza or Human coronavirus OC43 / HCoV-OC43</u> ^{[14][168]} (disputed)	1 million	[169]
1894 Hong Kong plague (part of the third plague pandemic)	1894–1929	<u>Hong Kong</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	20,000+	[170]
Bombay plague epidemic (part of	1896–1905	<u>Bombay, India</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	20,788	[171]


Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
the third plague pandemic)					
1896–1906 Congo Basin African trypanosomiasis epidemic	1896–1906	<u>Congo Basin</u>	<u>African trypanosomiasis</u>	500,000	[172]
1899 Porto plague outbreak (part of the third plague pandemic)	1899	<u>Porto, Portugal</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	132	[173]
<u>Sixth cholera pandemic</u>	1899–1923	Europe, Asia, Africa	<u>Cholera</u>	800,000+	[174]
San Francisco plague of 1900–1904 (part of the third plague pandemic)	1900–1904	San Francisco, United States	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	119	[175]
1900 Sydney bubonic plague epidemic (part of the third plague pandemic)	1900	Australia	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	103	[176]
1900–1920 Uganda African trypanosomiasis epidemic	1900–1920	<u>Uganda</u>	<u>African trypanosomiasis</u>	200,000–300,000	[172]
Papua New Guinea kuru epidemic	1901–2009	<u>Papua New Guinea</u>	<u>Kuru</u>	2,700–3,000+	[177][178]
1903 Fremantle plague epidemic (part of the third plague pandemic)	1903	<u>Fremantle, Western Australia</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	4	[179]
1906 malaria outbreak in Ceylon	1906–1936	<u>Ceylon</u>	<u>Malaria</u>	80,000	[180]
<u>Manchurian plague</u> (part of the third plague pandemic)	1910–1911	<u>China</u>	<u>Pneumonic plague</u>	60,000	[181]
1915 encephalitis lethargica pandemic	1915–1926	Worldwide	<u>Encephalitis lethargica</u>	500,000	[182][183][184]
1916 United States polio epidemic	1916	United States	<u>Poliomyelitis</u>	7,130	[185]
1918 influenza pandemic ('Spanish flu')	1918–1920	<u>Worldwide</u>	<u>Influenza A virus subtype H1N1</u>  H1N1 virus	17–100 million	[186][187][188]
1918–1922 Russia typhus epidemic	1918–1922	<u>Russia</u>	<u>Typhus</u>	2–3 million	[189]
1924 Los Angeles pneumonic plague outbreak	1924	<u>Los Angeles, United States</u>	<u>Pneumonic plague</u>	30	[190]

Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
<u>1924–1925 Minnesota smallpox epidemic</u>	1924–1925	<u>Minnesota, United States</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	500	[191]
<u>1927 Montreal typhoid fever epidemic</u>	1927	<u>Montreal, Canada</u>	<u>Typhoid fever</u>	538	[192]
<u>1929–1930 psittacosis pandemic</u>	1929–1930	<u>Worldwide</u>	<u>Psittacosis</u>	100+	[193]
<u>Croydon typhoid outbreak of 1937</u>	1937	<u>Croydon, United Kingdom</u>	<u>Typhoid fever</u>	43	[194]
<u>1937 Australia polio epidemic</u>	1937	<u>Australia</u>	<u>Poliomyelitis</u>	Unknown	[195]
<u>1940 Sudan yellow fever epidemic</u>	1940	<u>Sudan</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	1,627	[196]
<u>1942–1944 Egypt malaria epidemic</u>	1942–1944	<u>Egypt</u>	<u>Malaria</u>	Unknown	[138][197]
<u>1946 Egypt relapsing fever epidemic</u>	1946	<u>Egypt</u>	<u>Relapsing fever</u>	Unknown	[138][197]
<u>1947 Egypt cholera epidemic</u>	1947	<u>Egypt</u>	<u>Cholera</u>	10,277	[138][197][198]
<u>1948–1952 United States polio epidemic</u>	1948–1952	<u>United States</u>	<u>Poliomyelitis</u>	9,000	[185]
<u>1957–1958 influenza pandemic ('Asian flu')</u>	1957–1958	<u>Worldwide</u>	<u>Influenza A virus subtype H2N2</u>	1–4 million	[186][199][200]
<u>1960–1962 Ethiopia yellow fever epidemic</u>	1960–1962	<u>Ethiopia</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	30,000	[201]
<u>Seventh cholera pandemic</u>	1961–1975	<u>Worldwide</u>	<u>Cholera (EI Tor strain)</u>	36,000	[202]
<u>Hong Kong flu</u>	1968–1970	<u>Worldwide</u>	<u>Influenza A virus subtype H3N2</u>  H3N2 virus	1–4 million	[186][199][200]
<u>1971 Staphorst polio epidemic</u>	1971	<u>Staphorst, Netherlands</u>	<u>Poliomyelitis</u>	5	[203]
<u>1972 Yugoslav smallpox outbreak</u>	1972	<u>Yugoslavia</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	35	[204]
<u>London flu</u>	1972–1973	<u>United States</u>	<u>Influenza A virus subtype H3N2</u>	1,027	[205]
<u>1973 Italy cholera epidemic</u>	1973	<u>Italy</u>	<u>Cholera (EI Tor strain)</u>	24	[206]
<u>1974 smallpox epidemic in India</u>	1974	<u>India</u>	<u>Smallpox</u>	15,000	[207]

Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
1977 Russian flu	1977–1979	Worldwide	Influenza A virus subtype H1N1	700,000	[208][209]
Sverdlovsk anthrax leak	1979	Russia	Anthrax	105	[210]
HIV/AIDS pandemic	1981–present	Worldwide	HIV/AIDS  Human immunodeficiency virus	40.1 million (as of 2021)	[211]
1984 Western Sahara plague	1984	Western Sahara	Bubonic plague	64	
1986 Oju yellow fever epidemic	1986	Oju, Nigeria	Yellow fever	5,600+	[212]
1987 Mali yellow fever epidemic	1987	Mali	Yellow fever	145	[213]
1988 Shanghai hepatitis A epidemic	1988	Shanghai, China	Hepatitis A	31–47	[214][215][216]
1991 Bangladesh cholera epidemic	1991	Bangladesh	Cholera	8,410–9,432	[217]
1991 Latin America cholera epidemic	1991–1993	Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala	Cholera	8,000	[218][219]
1994 plague in India	1994	India	Bubonic plague and Pneumonic plague	56	[220]
United Kingdom BSE outbreak	1996–2001	United Kingdom	Variant Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease / vCJD	178	[221][222]
1996 West Africa meningitis epidemic	1996	West Africa	Meningitis	10,000	[223]
1998–1999 Malaysia Nipah virus outbreak	1998–1999	Malaysia	Nipah virus infection	105	[224]
1998–2000 Democratic Republic of the Congo Marburg virus outbreak	1998–2000	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Marburg virus	128	[225]
2000 Central America dengue epidemic	2000	Central America	Dengue fever	40+	[226]
2001 Nigeria cholera epidemic	2001	Nigeria	Cholera	400+	[227]
2001 South Africa cholera epidemic	2001	South Africa	Cholera	139	[228][229]
2002–2004 SARS outbreak	2002–2004	Worldwide	Severe acute respiratory syndrome / SARS	774	[230]

Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
2003–2019 Asia and Egypt avian influenza epidemic	2003–2019	<u>China, Southeast Asia and Egypt</u>	<u>Influenza A virus subtype H5N1</u>	455	[231]
2004 Indonesia dengue epidemic	2004	<u>Indonesia</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	658	[232]
2004 Sudan Ebola outbreak	2004	<u>Sudan</u>	<u>Ebola</u>	7	[233]
2004–2005 Angola Marburg virus outbreak	2004–2005	<u>Angola</u>	<u>Marburg virus</u>	227	[225]
2005 dengue outbreak in Singapore	2005	<u>Singapore</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	27	[234]
2006 Luanda cholera epidemic	2006	<u>Luanda, Angola</u>	<u>Cholera</u>	1,200+	[235]
2006 Ituri Province plague epidemic	2006	<u>Ituri Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	61	[236][237]
2006 India malaria outbreak	2006	<u>India</u>	<u>Malaria</u>	17	[238]
2006 dengue outbreak in India	2006	<u>India</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	50+	[239]
2006 dengue outbreak in Pakistan	2006	<u>Pakistan</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	50+	[240]
2006 Philippines dengue epidemic	2006	<u>Philippines</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	1,000	[241]
2006–2007 East Africa Rift Valley fever outbreak	2006–2007	<u>East Africa</u>	<u>Rift Valley fever</u>	394	[242]
Mweka Ebola epidemic	2007	<u>Democratic Republic of the Congo</u>	<u>Ebola</u>	187	[243]
2007 Ethiopia cholera epidemic	2007	<u>Ethiopia</u>	<u>Cholera</u>	684	[244]
2007 Iraq cholera outbreak	2007	<u>Iraq</u>	<u>Cholera</u>	10	[245]
2007 Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and Mexico dengue fever epidemic	2007	<u>Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Mexico</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	183	[246]
2007 Uganda Ebola outbreak	2007	<u>Uganda</u>	<u>Ebola</u>	37	[233]
2007 Netherlands Q-fever epidemic	2007–2018	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>Q-fever</u>	95	[247]
2008 Brazil dengue epidemic	2008	<u>Brazil</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	67	[248]
2008 Cambodia dengue epidemic	2008	<u>Cambodia</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	407	[249]

Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
2008 Chad cholera epidemic	2008	<u>Chad</u>	<u>Cholera</u>	123	[250]
2008–2017 China hand, foot, and mouth disease epidemic	2008–2017	China	<u>Hand, foot, and mouth disease</u>	3,322+	[251]
2008 India cholera epidemic	2008	India	<u>Cholera</u>	115	[252]
2008 Madagascar plague outbreak	2008	<u>Madagascar</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	18+	[253]
2008 Philippines dengue epidemic	2008	<u>Philippines</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	172	[254]
2008 Zimbabwean cholera outbreak	2008–2009	<u>Zimbabwe</u>	<u>Cholera</u>	4,293	[255]
2009 Bolivian dengue fever epidemic	2009	<u>Bolivia</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	18	[256]
2009 Gujarat hepatitis outbreak	2009	India	<u>Hepatitis B</u>	49	[257]
Queensland 2009 dengue outbreak	2009	<u>Queensland, Australia</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	1+ (503 cases)	[258]
2009–2010 West African meningitis outbreak	2009–2010	<u>West Africa</u>	<u>Meningitis</u>	1,100	[259]
2009 swine flu pandemic	2009–2010	<u>Worldwide</u>	<u>Influenza A virus subtype H1N1</u>	Lab confirmed deaths: 18,449 (reported to the WHO)	[260]
				Estimated death toll: 284,000 (possible range 151,700–575,400)	[261]
2010s Haiti cholera outbreak	2010–2019	<u>Haiti</u>	<u>Cholera (strain serogroup O1, serotype Ogawa)</u>	10,075	[262]
2010–2014 Democratic Republic of the Congo measles outbreak	2010–2014	<u>Democratic Republic of the Congo</u>	<u>Measles</u>	4,500+	[263][264]
2011 Vietnam hand, foot, and mouth disease epidemic	2011	<u>Vietnam</u>	<u>Hand, foot, and mouth disease</u>	170	[265][266]
2011 dengue outbreak in Pakistan	2011	Pakistan	<u>Dengue fever</u>	350+	[267]
2012 yellow fever outbreak in Darfur, Sudan	2012	<u>Darfur, Sudan</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	171	[268]
2012 Middle East respiratory	2012–2021	<u>Worldwide</u>	<u>Middle East respiratory syndrome / MERS-CoV</u>	941 (as of 8 May 2021)	[269][270]

Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
<u>syndrome coronavirus outbreak</u>					
<u>2013 dengue outbreak in Singapore</u>	2013	<u>Singapore</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	8	
<u>2013 Vietnam measles outbreak</u>	2013–2014	<u>Vietnam</u>	<u>Measles</u>	142	[271]
<u>Western African Ebola virus epidemic</u>	2013–2016	<u>Worldwide, primarily concentrated in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone</u>	<u>Ebola</u>  Ebola virus virion	11,323+	[272][273][274]
<u>2013–2014 chikungunya outbreak</u>	2013–2015	<u>Americas</u>	<u>Chikungunya</u>	183	[275]
<u>2013–19 avian influenza epidemic</u>	2013–2019	<u>China</u>	<u>Influenza A virus subtype H7N9</u>	616	[276]
<u>21st century Madagascar plague outbreaks</u>	2014–2017	<u>Madagascar</u>	<u>Bubonic plague</u>	292	[277]
<u>Flint water crisis</u>	2014–2015	<u>Flint, Michigan, United States</u>	<u>Legionnaires' disease</u>	12	[278]
<u>2014 Odisha hepatitis outbreak</u>	2014–2015	<u>India</u>	<u>Primarily Hepatitis E, but also Hepatitis A</u>	36	[279]
<u>2015 Indian swine flu outbreak</u>	2015	<u>India</u>	<u>Influenza A virus subtype H1N1</u>	2,035	[280][281][282]
<u>2015–16 Zika virus epidemic</u>	2015–2016	<u>Worldwide</u>	<u>Zika virus</u>	53	[283]
<u>2016 Angola and Democratic Republic of the Congo yellow fever outbreak</u>	2016	<u>Angola and Democratic Republic of the Congo</u>	<u>Yellow fever</u>	498 (377 in Angola, 121 in Congo)	[284]
<u>2016–2022 Yemen cholera outbreak</u>	2016–2022	<u>Yemen</u>	<u>Cholera</u>	3,981 (as of December 2020)	[285]
<u>2017 dengue outbreak in Peshawar</u>	2017	<u>Peshawar, Pakistan</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	69	[286]
<u>2017 Gorakhpur hospital deaths</u>	2017	<u>India</u>	<u>Japanese encephalitis</u>	1,317	[287]
<u>2017 dengue outbreak in Sri Lanka</u>	2017	<u>Sri Lanka</u>	<u>Dengue fever</u>	440	[288]
<u>2018 Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala</u>	2018	<u>India</u>	<u>Nipah virus infection</u>	17	[289]
<u>Kivu Ebola epidemic</u>	2018–2020	<u>Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda</u>	<u>Ebola</u>	2,280	[290][291][292]

Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)	Ref.
2018 NDM-CRE outbreak in Italy	2018–2019	Italy	New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase-producing Carbapenem-resistant enterobacteriaceae	31 (as of September 2019)	[293]
2019–2020 measles outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	2019–2020	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Measles	7,018+	[294]
2019–2020 New Zealand measles outbreak	2019–2020	New Zealand	Measles	2	[295]
2019 measles outbreak in the Philippines	2019	Philippines	Measles	415	[296]
2019 Kuala Koh measles outbreak	2019	Kuala Koh, Malaysia	Measles	15	[297]
2019 Samoa measles outbreak	2019	Samoa	Measles	83	[298]
2019–2020 dengue fever epidemic	2019–2020	Asia-Pacific, Latin America	Dengue fever	3,930	[299]
2019 Nigeria Lassa fever epidemic	2019–2021	Nigeria	Lassa fever	247 (as of May 2021)	[300]
COVID-19 pandemic	2019–present	Worldwide	Coronavirus disease 2019 / COVID-19  SARS-CoV-2 virus	7–29 million (as of March 2023)	[301][302][303][304]
2020 Democratic Republic of the Congo Ebola outbreak	2020	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ebola	55	[305]
2020 dengue outbreak in Singapore	2020	Singapore	Dengue fever	32	[306]
2020 Nigeria yellow fever epidemic	2020	Nigeria	Yellow fever	296 (as of 31 December 2020)	[307]
2021 India black fungus epidemic	2021–2022	India	Black fungus (COVID-19 condition)	4,332	[308]
2022 hepatitis of unknown origin in children	2021–2022	Worldwide	Hepatitis by Adenovirus variant AF41 (Unconfirmed)	18	[309][310][311]
2022–2023 monkeypox outbreak	2022–present	Worldwide	Monkeypox virus	280	[312][313][314][315]
2022 Uganda Ebola outbreak	2022–2023	Uganda	Sudan ebolavirus	77	[316]

See also



Pandemic portal

- [Globalization and disease](#) – Overview of globalization and disease transmission
- [History of smallpox](#) – Impact of smallpox on world history
- [List of Ebola outbreaks](#) – Cases and outbreaks of Ebola virus disease
- [List of infectious diseases](#)
- [List of natural disasters by death toll#Deadliest epidemics](#)
- [Timeline of plague](#) – Human and animal disease

Explanatory notes

- a. The estimates of global population at the time vary non-trivially (no consensus). The current estimates are based on the available population data from [estimates of historical world population](#) and.^{[2][3]}
- b. Global population changed significantly (not due to the epidemic) during the period of this epidemic.
- c. The COVID-19 pandemic started as a regional [outbreak/epidemic](#) of COVID-19 in China in late 2019. The World Health Organization declared it as a "pandemic" on 11 March 2020.^[8] The starting time of this epidemic is thus 2019, regardless of the time when it was formally recognized as a pandemic.
- d. [Epidemic typhus](#) was not limited to Russia and several million citizens died in Poland and Romania. However, due to lack of exact data, only the Russian epidemic is included.
- e. No accurate data about the local population at the time of this epidemic.

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