

MAJOR HISTORICAL WORLDWIDE EPIDEMICS

	Epidemic	Time	Death toll, in millions (at 2020 world population level)	Fatality, percent of world population	Ratio to 2019 epidemic
1	Plague of Justinian	541–549	3,120	40%	567
2	Black Death	1346–1353	2,659	34%	483
3	Spanish flu	1918–1920	347	4.4%	63
4	Antonine Plague	165–185	328	4.2%	60
	<i>World War II</i>	1939–1945	288	3.7%	52
5	1st Cocoliztli Epidemic	1545–1548	213	2.7%	39
6	Mexico smallpox epidemic	1519–1520	119	1.5%	22
	<i>World War I</i>	1914–1918	95	1.2%	17
7	Japanese smallpox epidemic	735–737	74	1.0%	14
8	HIV/AIDS pandemic	1981–present	46	0.6%	8
9	Third plague pandemic	1855–1960	44	0.6%	8
10	2nd Cocoliztli epidemic	1576–1580	38	0.5%	7
11	Persian Plague	1772–1773	18	0.2%	3.3
12	Naples Plague	1656–1658	17	0.2%	3.1
13	Italian plague	1629–1631	15	0.2%	2.7
14	Russia typhus epidemic	1918–1922	12	0.2%	2.2
	<i>American Civil War</i>	1861/1864	10	0.13%	1.8
15	Asian flu	1957–1958	8.1	0.10%	1.5
16	Third cholera pandemic	1846–1860	7.2	0.09%	1.3
17	Hong Kong flu	1968–1969	6.5	0.08%	1.2
18	COVID-19 pandemic	2019–present	5.5	0.07%	1.0
19	Flu pandemic	1889–1890	5.2	0.07%	0.9
	Historic total excluding wars		7,082	91%	1,288