

## There is another virus *stalking* America: it's called the flu

A second wave of seasonal influenza is taking hold in the U.S., just as health officials are on high alert for new cases of the novel coronavirus. Many of the *symptoms* are the same, but when it comes to immediate risk, Americans should fear the flu more.

stalk 追踪; 潜近

symptom 症状

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than 19 million Americans have fallen ill with the flu so far this season, including 180, 000 who ended up in the hospital. About 10, 000 Americans have died, including more than 60 children.

This flu season in the U.S. began earlier than usual. It started picking up in mid-November with a surge of influenza B, a strain that typically develops later in the cycle and hits children the hardest.

Because the elderly are the most likely to fall gravely ill and die from influenza, the rate of hospitalization and mortality remained well below average even as infection rates climbed.

But an uptick in new flu infections began to appear over the past two weeks. The strain that's emerging now is an H1N1 type of influenza A, the one that normally kicks off the season. It can take hold in adults and may be more severe, resulting in more deaths.

Gregory Poland, director of the Vaccine Research Group at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, *Minnesota, lamented* the low vaccination rates among Americans, especially pregnant women and children. This is especially frustrating because the vaccine that's now being administered is well matched to the flu that's circulating, he said.

Minnesota 明尼苏达州

lament 哀悼; 悲叹

"Their risk is influenza, and it's substantial."