



I needed to stop this terrible epidemic, so I needed to stop people infecting each other. Most of the people in the city worked in factories, so that was my first stop.

If the factory owners didn't listen, maybe at least I could protect the children. So I visited the main schools. The sick children could infect all the other children. It was important to warn the head teachers to close their schools if this happened.



I tried to stop the trams. I tried to close all the public buildings, but no one wanted to listen to my warnings.

## Activities

**7**  Make a list of Dr Niven's ideas for stopping the epidemic.

**8** Discuss the questions with a classmate.

- How do other people react to Dr Niven's ideas?
- Why do you think they react like this?

They're worried about people getting scared.

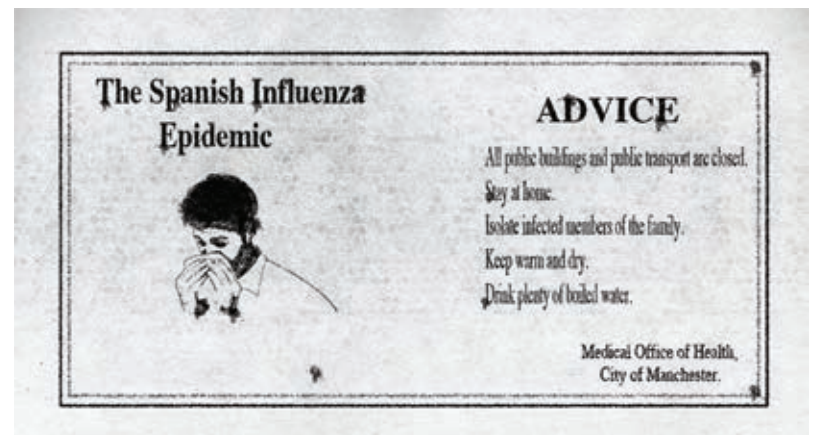
No, they're worried about losing money.

They don't want to make life difficult.

A few days later the flu epidemic was much worse. More than 100 people were dying every day in the city. I received a note from the mayor telling me to go to the town hall urgently.



So we closed down the whole city. There was no public transport. Public buildings were closed and we told people to stay at home. It was also important to inform the population about the dangers of flu. We distributed thousands of leaflets. We told people to wash their hands frequently and to isolate anyone who was sick. All the hospital workers wore masks so they didn't catch the disease from the patients.



## Activities

- 9 In 1918 they used leaflets to inform people about the flu. How would we do this today? Make a list with a classmate.

.....

- 10 With a classmate role-play a conversation about the advice in the leaflet between Dr Niven and a member of the public.

# Story focus

**1 Find and underline sentences in the story to answer the questions. Write the page numbers.**

a) What did Dr. Niven notice about the people coming back from the war?	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) What actions did the authorities take to stop the spread of the disease?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
c) How did Dr. Niven try to educate the public about the disease?	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Why did Dr. Niven mean by 'quackery'?	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) When did the epidemic start again?	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) What additional problems were there the second time?	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Why did people call it Spanish flu?	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) What's the difference between an epidemic and a pandemic?	<input type="checkbox"/>

**2 Complete the table with information from the story.**

The 1918–1919 influenza pandemic	
Medical treatment	Preventative measures

**3 Use the key to classify the information.**      = Dr Niven knew      = Dr Niven suspected.

- |   |                          |                                       |                          |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) The disease spread very quickly.         | <input type="checkbox"/> | e) The disease would come back again. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) It caused coughs and sneezes.            | <input type="checkbox"/> | f) The virus travelled in the air.    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) The disease was a virus.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | g) A bad diet made people weak.       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) The disease was brought by the soldiers. | <input type="checkbox"/> | h) People in Spain had the disease.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**4 Work with classmate. Make a list of the lessons of the flu pandemic and present it to the class.**

We should...     We shouldn't...



**Health visitor's report**

Date of visit: 25 November  
 Address: 13, Factory Street  
 Number in the family: 5

Names	Age	Date taken ill	Symptom		
			cough	temperature	headache
James Clegg	33	soldier in France			
Aggie Clegg	32	20/11/1918	✓	high	✓
Mary Burrows	54	4/11/1918	✓	normal	✓
Jim Clegg	6 months	15/11/1918	✓	high	?
Lucy Clegg	6		x	normal	x

**1 Write the headings.**

Home conditions

Assistance needed

	2 bedrooms / outside toilet / clean supply coal and milk
Observations	

**2 Discuss the patients with a classmate and suggest treatment.**

... is getting better/worse.

... has/doesn't have a high temperature.

... should be isolated/ drink boiled water.

**3 Tick the observations you think the health worker made.**

a) A young child is looking after the family	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Baby needs extra milk.	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) The health worker should make daily visits.	<input type="checkbox"/>	e) Grandmother can work.	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Father is helping with the children.	<input type="checkbox"/>	f) Mother is better.	<input type="checkbox"/>