


Yellow Fever
1790s
Vs.
COVID-19
2020



Yellow Fever Symptoms

- Fever
- Headache
- Jaundice
- Bleeding from eyes, ears, mouth, and nose
- Black stool/bile
- Kidney failure
- Fatigue



COVID-19 Symptoms

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Muscle pain

Yellow Fever Causes

Yellow was transmitted from person to person through mosquito bites. People at the time were unaware of this and thought that the disease was due to noxious air or person to person contact. They did not know about the existence of viruses.



COVID-19 Causes

Likewise, the COVID-19 virus was transferred from animals to humans. It is also transmitted through droplets from coughing or sneezing. These can be on solid surfaces or in the air.

Yellow Fever Timeline

Although Yellow Fever had cases in the Southern States, its first appearance in the North was in Philadelphia, 1793.

In 1795, during John Jay's first term as governor, the fever first significantly impacted NY. Some seasons were better than others, but the fever plagued Northern States for the next 30 years

COVID-19 Timeline

January 21st, the first case of the virus was reported in Washington State and spreads quickly. The first reported case in New York was on March 1st



Yellow Fever NY Death Toll

Of a population of about 60,000 people, 732 died in 1795 and 1,524 in 1798 (with additional deaths due to hunger and other diseases).

The total number of cases is unknown.

In 1798, NY's capital was in Albany, but John Jay made frequent trips south to monitor the dire situation in NYC.

COVID-19 NY Death Toll

At the time this was written there have been 319,000 cases of COVID -19, of which 19,415 resulted in death.





Yellow Fever Treatment

With limited understanding of disease, treatments included:

- Fresh air
- Purging
- Induced Salivation
- Blood letting

*** NONE of these treatments are suggested by any current health professionals. DO NOT TRY.

COVID-19 Treatment

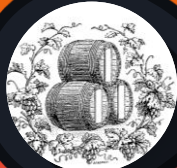
There is no cure/ medication for COVID-19 at this time, but the following is recommended to relieve symptoms:

- Rest
- Staying hydrated
- Certain over the counter medications (as directed)

Yellow Fever Quarantine

In 1793 New York quarantined all ships and persons from Philadelphia. The Secretary of War, Henry Knox, was quarantined for 14 days before being allowed to pass into New York.

In 1795, John Jay expanded the quarantine to all ships entering New York's harbor



COVID-19 Quarantine

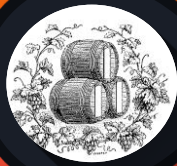
Quarantine measures increased as the virus spread throughout New York State. This included the closing of schools and non-essential businesses, and the practice of social distancing.

Yellow Fever Prevention

As it seemed less likely that the disease was transmitted by being in close proximity with the sick, the Committee of Health turned to cleaning up the city.

Cleaning the City involved:

- Picking up waste and dead animals from streets
- Draining flooded basements and areas with stagnant water
- Hosing down roads



COVID-19 Prevention

Along with social distancing, New Yorkers are asked to:

- Wash hands well/often
- Wear a face mask in public

Some businesses require preordering needed products for curbside pick-up.



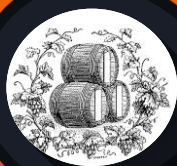
Yellow Fever Risk Factors

Dr. Benjamin Rush believed weakness, fear of the disease, and too much meat in one's diet would predispose one to get the fever.

Interestingly, Rush avoided meat entirely at this time and still contracted the disease.

COVID- 19 Risk Factors

Older adults and anyone with preexisting/ underling conditions tend to be more prone to getting the virus.



Yellow Fever At Home

Much like today, people would turn to homemade solutions.

- Fires were burned to purify the air
- Spent gunpowder was believed to have medicinal properties
- Vinegar solutions were used to disinfect

COVID-19 At Home

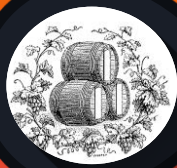
Just like in the past, some modern, at home solutions can be harmful and ineffective. "Miracle mineral solution" sounds like it's straight from an 1800s newspaper ad, but it is a modern product. Dangerous to ingest, some have mistakenly believed it will protect them from the virus.

Yellow Fever and Commerce

In 1795, the Governor of Pennsylvania declared a quarantine against NYC in order to protect Philadelphia.

Governor John Jay believed it would interrupt commerce which was necessary to the “interest and convenience of the [city and country].”

NYC faced dramatic financial hardship during Yellow Fever epidemics.



COVID-19 and Commerce

The economic effects of COVID-19 have been global. All have been affected by financial demands and lack of trade.