

80,000 people died of flu last winter in US

Associated Press — An estimated 80,000 Americans died of flu and its complications last winter — the disease's highest death toll in at least four decades. The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Robert Redfield, revealed the total in an interview Tuesday night with The Associated Press. Flu experts knew it was a very bad season, but at

least one found the size of the estimate surprising. "That's huge," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University vaccine expert. The tally was nearly twice as much as what health officials pre-

viously considered a bad year, he said.

In recent years, flu-related deaths have ranged from about 12,000 to 56,000, according to the CDC.

Last fall and winter, the U.S. went through one of the most severe flu seasons in recent memory. It was driven by a kind of flu that tends to put more people in the hospital and cause more deaths, particularly among young children and the elderly.

The season peaked in early February and it was mostly over by the end of March.

Making a bad year worse, the flu vaccine didn't work very well. Experts nevertheless say vaccination is still worth it because it makes illnesses less severe and save lives.

"I'd like to see more people get vaccinated," Redfield told the AP at an event in New York. "We lost 80,000 people last year to the flu."

CDC officials do not have exact counts of how many people die from flu each year. Flu is so common that not all flu cases are reported, and flu is not always listed on death certificates. So the CDC uses statistical models, which are periodically revised, to make estimates.

Fatal complications from the flu can include pneumonia, stroke and heart attack.

CDC officials called the 80,000 figure preliminary, and it may be slightly revised. But they said it is not expected to go down.

It eclipses the estimates for every flu season going back to the winter of 1976-1977. Estimates for many earlier seasons were not readily available.

Last winter was not the worst flu season on record, however. The 1918 flu pandemic, which lasted nearly two years, killed more than 500,000 Americans, historians estimate.

It's not easy to compare flu seasons through history, partly because the nation's population is changing. There are more Americans — and more elderly Americans — today than in decades past, noted Dr. Daniel Jernigan, a CDC flu expert.

U.S. health officials on Thursday are scheduled to hold a media event in Washington, D.C., to stress the importance of vaccinations to protect against whatever flu circulates this coming winter.

And how bad is it going to be? So far, the flu that's been detected is a milder strain, and early signs are that the vaccine is shaping up to be a good match, Jernigan said. The makeup of the vac-

cine has been changed this year to try to better protect against expected strains.

"We don't know what's going to happen, but we're seeing more encouraging signs than we were early last year," Jernigan said.

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Central Holmes Trojans finish 3rd in state tourney



McKaylee Polk is welcomed at the plate by her team mates to celebrate her over the fence home run. The Lady Trojans defeated Amite with a score of 4-1 in game one on Saturday, September 29, and then went on to win game two against Clinton Christian Academy, score 1-0. (Photo by Amy Lindsay)



Pictured above (at right), Lady Trojan Landry Gardner attempts an out during Saturday's AA State Tournament that was held in Magee. (Photo by Amy Lindsay)



Pictured above (from left) Lady Trojans Aubrey Carr, McKenna Polk, Shelby Lindsay, Regan Brown, Addie Burrell and Coach Jerry Polk, celebrate the team's third place ranking in the AA state softball tournament that was held Monday, October 1 in Magee. (Photo submitted)

Crop	CBOT Month	Delivery Period	Futures Price	EGT Basis	Net Price	Change
Wheat	Jul 19	2019 Jun	5.45	-0.22	5.23	0.04
Corn	Dec 18	2018 Oct	3.66	-0.24	3.42	0.10
Corn	Dec 18	2018 Dec	3.66	-0.07	3.59	0.10
Corn	Sep 19	2019 Aug	3.94	-0.04	3.90	0.09
Soybeans Sidon	Nov 18	2018 Oct-Nov	8.58	-0.77	7.81	0.12
Soybeans G'wood	Nov 18	2018 Oct-Nov	8.58	-0.53	8.05	0.18
Soybeans G'wood	Jan 19	2018 Dec	8.72	-0.34	8.38	0.12
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 18	2018 Oct-Nov	8.58	-0.65	7.93	0.12
Rice	Sep 18		10.135			0.355
Rice	Nov 18		10.310			0.330
Cotton	Oct 18		76.70			-0.060
Cotton	Dec 18		76.31			-0.060

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2018 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
August 31	Winona Christian*	Away	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	Benton Academy	Away	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	Marshall Academy*	Home	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Hatley School	Home	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	St. Aloysius H.S.	Home	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	Oak Hill Academy*^	Home	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	OPEN		
Oct. 19	Carroll Academy*	Away	7 p.m.

*District Game
^Homecoming

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