

# Archaic Medical Terms

## A resource for genealogists and historians

### Recorded epidemics

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Epidemic	A sudden outbreak of an infectious disease that spreads rapidly through the population, affecting a large proportion of people
Pandemic	Epidemic disease, so widely spread that vast numbers of people in several countries are affected
Epidemiology	Study of how epidemic disease is spread or transmitted with particular regard to the prevention and control of epidemics
Endemic	Describes a disease that is generally or constantly found in a place or population
Ecdemic	Describes a disease that is not generally found or unusual in a place or population

### Table of epidemics

This is draft version of mainly UK and USA information. More information will be added when I have time to check it and type it up. It is sorted by date

**There are duplicate entries, some of which stem from my ignorance of North American Geography. Some entries include abbreviations for US states that I am unsure about (feel free to tell me what they mean)**

I have substituted the modern name for an illness where I am confident about the epidemic illness

Start	End	Disease	Location	Notes
1350		Bubonic Plague	Worldwide	
1499		Bubonic Plague	London UK	
1507		Fever	UK	
1551		Influenza	UK	
1555	1563	Famine	UK	Severe rain brought crop failure
1556		Bubonic Plague	UK	
1578		Bubonic Plague	UK	
1586		Bubonic Plague	Chesterfield UK	Harvest failed
1591		Acute Distress	UK	
1593		Bubonic Plague	UK	
1596		Famine	UK	Harvests failed & epidemics
1603		Bubonic Plague	UK	
1612		Bubonic Plague	UK	
1617		Smallpox	USA	Native Americans
1623		Bubonic Plague	UK	
1625		Bubonic Plague	UK	
1626		Bubonic Plague	UK	
1628	1631	Smallpox	New England USA	
1630		Bubonic Plague	UK	Very bad year. Many died
1631		Bubonic Plague	UK	
1633		Smallpox	USA	Native Americans
1636		Bubonic Plague	UK	
1637		Bubonic Plague	UK	
1638		Smallpox & Spotted Fever	New England USA	

1647		Yellow Fever	West Indies	
1648		Smallpox	USA	
1648		Whooping Cough	USA	
1648	1649	Smallpox	Massachusetts Bay Colony USA	
1654		Bubonic Plague	UK	
1657	1658	Measles	Boston USA	
1659		Diphtheria	Massachusetts Bay Colony USA	
1662		Smallpox	New York USA	
1665		Bubonic Plague	UK	Extreme
1668		Yellow Fever	New York USA	
1677		Smallpox	Boston USA	
1677	1678	Smallpox	Charlestown & Boston USA	
1679	1680	Smallpox	Virginia USA	
1687		Measles	Boston USA	
1689	1690	Smallpox	New England USA	
1690		Yellow Fever	New York USA	
1693		Yellow Fever	Boston, MA USA	
1696		Smallpox	Jamestown, VA USA	
1699		Smallpox	South Carolina USA	Month of March
1699		Yellow Fever	Charleston South Carolina & Philadelphia USA	
1702		Scarlet Fever	Boston USA	
1702		Yellow Fever	New York USA	
1702	1703	Smallpox	Boston, MA USA	
1706		Yellow Fever	Charleston South Carolina USA	
1711	1712	Smallpox	South Carolina USA	
1713		Measles	Boston USA	
1715	1725	Smallpox	Most of the Colonies	
1721		Smallpox	Boston USA	
1723		Influenza	Worldwide	
1723	1730	Famine	UK	Poor harvests & epidemics
1723	1730	Smallpox	Boston, New York, Philadelphia	
1728		Yellow Fever	South Carolina USA	
1729		Measles	Boston USA	
1732		Yellow Fever	Charleston & New York	
1732		Yellow Fever	South Carolina USA	
1732	1733	Influenza	Worldwide	
1734		Yellow Fever	Virginia USA	
1735	1740	Smallpox, Scarlet Fever & Diphtheria	New England USA	
1738		Smallpox	South Carolina USA	
1739	1740	Measles	Boston USA	
1741		Yellow Fever	Virginia USA	
1743		Yellow Fever	New York USA	
1747		Measles	Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania & South Carolina USA	
1752		Smallpox	Boston, MA USA	
1759		Measles	North America	Areas inhabited by whites
1760	1761	Smallpox	Connecticut, Rhode Island,	

			Massachusetts, Charleston USA	
1761		Influenza	North America & West Indies	
1762		Yellow Fever	Philadelphia USA	
1763		Diphtheria	Philadelphia USA	
1764		Smallpox	Boston, MA USA	
1769		Diphtheria	New York USA	
1772		Measles	North America	
1772	1774	Smallpox	New England USA	
1775		Unknown Epidemic	North America	Especially New England
1775	1776	Influenza	Worldwide	One of the worst flu pandemics
1778		Smallpox	Boston, MA USA	
1781	1782	Influenza	Worldwide	One of worst flu pandemics
1783		Bilious Disorder	Dover Delaware USA	Extremely fatal
1788		Measles	Philadelphia and New York USA	
1789		Influenza	USA	
1792		Smallpox	Boston, MA USA	
1792	1799	Yellow Fever	USA	
1793		A "putrid" fever and Influenza	Vermont USA	
1793		Influenza	Virginia USA	500 died in four weeks in 5 counties
1793		Influenza and a "Putrid Fever"	Vermont USA	
1793		Many Unexplained Deaths	Pennsylvania USA	Harrisburg & Middletown
1793		Yellow Fever	Philadelphia USA	One of the worst epidemics over 4000 deaths
1794		Yellow Fever	Philadelphia Pennsylvania USA	
1796	1797	Yellow Fever	Philadelphia Pennsylvania USA	
1798		Yellow Fever	Philadelphia USA	One of worst
1802		Smallpox	Nebraska USA	
1803		Yellow Fever	New York USA	
1820	1823	Fever	Nationwide USA	Started near Schuylkill River, PA
1822		Yellow Fever	New York and New Orleans USA	
1826		Cholera	Worldwide	
1826		Dengue Fever	USA and West Indies	
1829		Malaria	USA	
1831		Cholera	UK	Started Worldwide 1826
1831		Cholera	USA	
1831	1832	Asiatic Cholera	Nationwide USA	Brought by English emigrants
1832		Asiatic Cholera	New Orleans USA	Over 1000 deaths
1832		Cholera	New York City & other major cities USA	
1832		Influenza	USA	
1833		Cholera	Columbus, Ohio USA	
1834		Cholera	New York City USA	

1837		Smallpox	USA	Native Americans
1837		Typhus	Philadelphia USA	
1841		Yellow Fever	Nationwide USA	Severe in South
1847		Measles	USA	Native Americans
1847		Yellow Fever	New Orleans USA	
1847	1848	Influenza	Worldwide	
1848		Cholera	Worldwide	
1848	1849	Cholera	North America	
1849		Cholera	New York USA	
1849	1850	Cholera	New Orleans USA	3000 deaths
1850		Cholera	Alabama, New York	
1850		Dengue Fever	USA	
1850		Influenza	USA	
1850		Yellow Fever	Nationwide USA	
1850	1851	Influenza	North America	
1851		Cholera	Coles County, IL The Great Plains States & Missouri USA	
1852		Yellow Fever	Nationwide USA	8000 died in New Orleans
1853		Cholera	Birmingham UK	
1853		Yellow Fever	New Orleans USA	8000 die
1855		Yellow Fever	Nationwide USA	
1857	1859	Influenza	Worldwide	One of the greatest pandemics
1860	1861	Smallpox	Pennsylvania USA	
1865		Cholera	USA	
1865		Smallpox	USA	
1865		Typhus	USA	
1865	1873	A series of recurring epidemics of Smallpox, Cholera, Typhus, Typhoid, Scarlet Fever & Yellow Fever	Philadelphia, New York, Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore, Memphis, & Washington D.C. USA	
1868	1875	Smallpox	USA	
1873		Cholera	USA	
1873	1875	Influenza	UK Europe & North America	
1878		Yellow Fever	New Orleans USA	Last great epidemic of this disease
1878		Yellow Fever	Memphis, TN USA	
1885		Typhoid	Plymouth, Pennsylvania USA	
1886		Yellow Fever	Plymouth, Pennsylvania USA	
1886		Yellow Fever	Jacksonville, FL USA	
1889		Influenza	Worldwide	
1893		Polio	USA	First known outbreak
1900		Plague	USA	
1901		Smallpox	USA	
1905		Yellow Fever	New Orleans USA	Last US outbreak
1907	1916	Polio	US	
1917	1918	Influenza	Worldwide	Worst ever pandemic. 1918

				high point year
1931		Polio	USA	
1942		Polio	USA	