

## Pandemic Influenza Storybook

My name is Kathleen Toomey and the pan flu epidemic of 1918-1919 had a profound impact on my family. My father Raymond was born in September of 1919 and what happened is that he was actually born three months after his father, my grandfather had died, my grandfather died in the flu pandemic so my father had no father because of the pandemic, which profoundly affected the rest of his life. He ended up being raised not by his mother but by his grandmother which changed the whole way he looked at life and viewed the world. And it certainly shaped who I am today. I heard about this story when I was a little girl. And I think that that actually planted a seed in my mind about the impact of epidemics, that I wanted to be a public health physician. So I can say honestly that I am here today at CDC because of that epidemic in 1919.