

Influenza Disgruntled over COVID-19 Press

by
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Associated Press: In a new feud, now with late-2019 virus, COVID-19, Influenza asks, "Where the hell is *my* press?" Claiming an unfair level of notoriety for COVID-19 or 'coronavirus,' the former says, "I run a pandemic every fucking year... and where's *my* quarantine? Huh?"

Citing the timing of COVID's appearance on the global stage, Influenza suggests the fledgling illness's importance is "grotesquely overrated," and that, "it's just not fair."

Influenza is notorious for yearly infections and failed vaccines.

"I mean, I have a whole *season*," the virulent pathogen says. "People name all kinds of other crap after me, too: upset stomachs, coughs, cases of 'the blahs.' You know? When all those YouTube

videos and Tweets 'go viral?' They name that shit after coronavirus? I don't *think* so. They named it after *me*. You get me? People call everything 'the flu.' I mean, I'm a goddamned gold *standard!*

"So then where's *my* shutdown? Where's *my* run on toilet paper? It's not there, because I been greasin' motherfuckers since people were wiping their asses with *fig* leaves. *That's* why. I'm like, where is *my* global economy crash?"

Further, the febrile illness notes that because World War II began in only 1939, the reaction to the 1918 influenza epidemic could not be compared to the greatest war the world has ever seen.

"I'm as big as World Wars one *and* two," the elderly virus says, "and you can throw in the Civil War and Vietnam. *And* the battle of Hastings if you want. I've been around since *way* before ten sixty-six."

Some sources suggest the ease of modern communication aids in the

popularity of the new illness.

"Back in nineteen-eighteen, there *was* no internet. Social media and all that. Instagram, Twitter... COVID's

precious-fucking *FACE*book. Every asshole gets an opinion. We just didn't have that back then."

Others believe the pleomorphic RNA virus is not getting its due consideration.

"Some of us are neutralized with just one vaccine," Measles said in a recent group interview.

"But not this guy," Mumps said. "He ain't just some case of the sniffles."

"No shit," said Rubella. "Guy's got a friggin' vaccine. And every year, he's still out there doin' more than this corona-whatever."

Chicken Pox giggled, comparing itself to influenza. "Fugittaboudit. I love the son-of-a-bitch. He's my hero."

Regarding travel bans, Flu says, "Nobody did that for me. Because when I hit the scene, people were

driving horses and buggies.”

Further, influenza, rolling its red and watery eyes, says, “And don’t get me started talking about deaths, okay? In nineteen eighteen alone? Fifty. Million. People. *Fifty*. Five-oh. Know what I mean? That’s a hundred and fifty in today’s people.”

A recent set of twins, born at the height of what some call “lockdown,” was named Covid and Corona.

“Jesus,” the veteran illness said, “it figures goofballs would name their kids after some namby-pamby cold virus. I’m just too big of a deal. I mean, you ever see a kid named N. Flue Enza? Me neither. Small Pox Johnson or Syphilis O’Riley? Nope. How ’bout Ebola Conesco? Nuh-uh. You won’t find that. But name one baby after COVID, and that Johnny-come-lately thinks he’s the fucking *plague*.”

“The injustice of it sickens me to my core antigens.”

As though spoiling for a showdown, Influenza says, “Come on, coronavirus...

Co-VIDD, throw down. Right here, right now. Show me you’re worth a damn.”

COVID-19 has been suspected of causing similar illnesses in other species of mammal.

“So I don’t infect tigers and bats,” Flu says. “Big deal.

“I infect people. Lots and lots of people.”

Some defend Influenza by saying it is only at bay because of vaccinations. The first flu vaccine was developed in 1938.

“COVID’ll get his,” Flu says. “And when he does, I’ll be first in line. I’ll point a hemagglutinin at him... and *laugh*.” When asked about the institution of vaccines, the older ailment says only, “Jonas Salk can burn in hell.

“And don’t call me The Flu. I ain’t just some ... one-day case of the shits you can get from drinking too much grape juice. I’m more than that. Much more. My name is Influenza. Say my name. *SAY IT!* In-Flu-EN-za. And that COVID punk can suck it.”

Presumed busy facilitating worldwide respiratory and multi-system organ failure, strokes, coma, and death, COVID-19 has thus far been unavailable for comment.