

Speaking with: John Gerrard on preventing infectious diseases

Written by William Isdale, Research Assistant, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne



John Gerrard says a developed city like Sydney could not cope with an epidemic of the scale of the recent Ebola outbreak. [UNMEER/Martine Perret/Flickr](#) , [CC BY-ND](#)

The Spanish Flu of 1918 is estimated to have infected around 500 million, and killed between 20 and 40 million, people around the world - all within the space of a year. It is perhaps the deadliest pandemic in human history.

We have seen nothing as devastating since, but outbreaks such as [influenza](#) , [HIV/AIDS](#) , [Zika](#) and [Ebola](#) highlight that infectious diseases are a [constant threat](#).

William Isdale spoke with Dr. John Gerrard about predicting the next major infectious disease threat, and how we can prevent a pandemic from establishing itself in Australia.

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