“Past as Prologue: The Lessons of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic”

This talk will provide a brief overview of the 1918 influenza pandemic and its impact on the United States. It will then discuss the various state and local public health responses to the pandemic and the efficacy of those measures. Lastly, the talk will delve into the myriad issues public health officials faced in implementing mitigation efforts, including pushback from business owners and places of worship, non-compliance with masking mandates, jurisdictional infighting, and questions over whether to close schools. The talk will then compare and contrast the 1918 pandemic with today’s COVID-19 pandemic, discussing the similarities in both public health approaches as well as social response to those measures.