Comparison of US Influenza to the potential impact of Covid – using Italian ratios as an indicator of the potential impact on the US.

Table 1

	Influenza Numbers							
Season	US Population	Symptomatic	Hospitalized	Deaths	Percent of Population exhibiting symptoms	Percentage showing symptoms who are hospitalized	Percentage showing symptoms who die	Percentage of hospitalized who die
2010-2011	309,000,000	21,000,000	290,000	37,000	6.80%	1.38%	0.18%	12.76%
2011-2012	311,000,000	9,300,000	140,000	12,000	2.99%	1.51%	0.13%	8.57%
2012-2013	313,870,000	34,000,000	570,000	43,000	10.83%	1.68%	0.13%	7.54%
2013-2014	316,066,000	30,000,000	350,000	38,000	9.49%	1.17%	0.13%	10.86%
2014-2015	318,390,000	30,000,000	590,000	51,000	9.42%	1.97%	0.17%	8.64%
2015-2016	320,878,000	24,000,000	280,000	23,000	7.48%	1.17%	0.10%	8.21%
2016-2017	327,096,000	29,000,000	500,000	38,000	8.87%	1.72%	0.13%	7.60%
2017-2018*	329,065,000	45,000,000	810,000	61,000	13.68%	1.80%	0.14%	7.53%
2018-2019*	331,000,000	35,520,883	490,561	34,157	10.73%	1.38%	0.10%	6.96%
Total/Average	2,876,365,000	257,820,883	4,020,561	337,157	8.96%	1.56%	0.13%	8.39%

Table 2

US Population	Average % with Flu Symptoms each year	Average Number who are Symptomatic	% of symptomatic who are hospitalized	Average number who are hospitalized	% of hospitalized who die	Average deaths from flu
331,000,000	8.96%	29,668,944	1.56%	462,669	8.39%	38,799

Table 3

US Population	% who will have Covid Symptoms	Number who will have symptoms	Italian hospitalization % of those with symptoms	Number of US hospitalized for Covid using Italian ratio	% of Italians who are hospitalized for Covid, who die	Number who might die from Covid if Italian numbers apply	US Flu death comparison
331,000,000	100.00%	331,000,000	18.30%	60,573,000	35.1%	21,256,052	38,799
331,000,000	50.00%	165,500,000	18.30%	30,286,500	35.1%	10,628,026	38,799
331,000,000	25.00%	82,750,000	18.30%	15,143,250	35.1%	5,314,013	38,799
331,000,000	10.00%	33,100,000	18.30%	6,057,300	35.1%	2,125,605	38,799
331,000,000	8.96%	29,668,944	18.30%	5,429,417	35.1%	1,905,271	38,799
331,000,000	3.00%	9,930,000	18.30%	1,817,190	35.1%	637,682	38,799

For Table 3, choose the row that you think is a reasonable percentage of the US population who will exhibit Coronavirus symptoms. Use the second from the bottom where the Covid percentage is 8.96% if you think the same ratio of people who experience flu symptoms in an average year will also exhibit coronavirus symptoms. Follow that row across and you will find the number of US deaths would be 1,905,271 if what is happening in Italy also happens in the US. Compare that to the number who typically die of the flu each year in the US and you can see why the alarm bells are being sounded. The quarantining measures that are being taken will slow the rate of those getting the virus. So you might choose to use the bottom row.

Things you might want to challenge. Are the Italian numbers correct? Italy updates their numbers daily. They do have an open government who I trust to report the data accurately. Look at https://bit.ly/2UFlWD5 for the official reports. Follow Italian media for what is happening there.