



Web Communications (and New Media) Division (WCD)  
Feb/March 2008 Update [www.hhs.gov/web](http://www.hhs.gov/web)  
design and content consulting . web content management .  
google search . watchfire compliance monitor . webtrends  
metrics . graphics support . Q/A database . enterprise  
portal . governance . <http://intranet.hhs.gov> . usability  
.[hhs.gov/web](http://hhs.gov/web) . video hosting . translation . blogging .  
Prudence Goforth, Director . Richard Stapleton, Deputy.

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## Learn From the Past: 1918



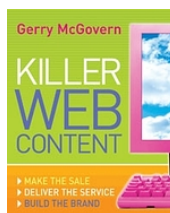
Where did the 1918 influenza come from and why was it so lethal? The flu pandemic left 675,000 Americans dead and challenged medical science, which had only just begun to understand the cause of diseases and how they are spread.

Learn all about **The Great Pandemic** on our new Web site, [1918.pandemicflu.gov](http://1918.pandemicflu.gov), a visually stunning historical look at how the country responded to the outbreak of a disease that we anticipate will occur again, in some variation, in our own lifetimes. The site, launched in December, includes personal stories, histories from all 50 states, and a treasure trove of documents and images from that era.

## Gerry McGovern to Speak

Save the date: Thursday, April 10, 2008

Web content guru **Gerry McGovern** will lead a full day of presentations and discussion as WCD holds its second annual **HHS Web Conference**. We urge everyone to come hear Gerry!



9:00am to 5:00 pm – Voice of America Auditorium  
Third and Independence (across 3<sup>rd</sup> from HHS)

## Section 508: Time to Step Up

You are blind, and you need access to an HHS Web site. You are deaf, and you need the information a CDC expert is conveying on a video.

Thanks to **Section 508** of the **Rehabilitation Act of 1998**, that information should be available to you. But don't count on it. Section 508 has been slow to take hold, and accessibility to Web content at HHS -- and all across the federal spectrum -- is spotty at best.

WCD has been working with the Web community to increase the accessibility of our Web sites -- writing guidance, setting standards, working to get 508 language into contracts, and requiring new pages and files be compliant.

That effort takes on new urgency. HHS has received 13 notices of non-compliance covering OS and 10 OPDIV Web sites.

WCD is leading the HHS response, negotiating an MOU and drafting a multi-year 508 Compliance and Remediation Plan.

WCD presented the plan framework to the HHS Web Council Feb. 11 and the plan has been distributed across the OPDIVs for comments, and WCD has been meeting with OPDIV audiences to explain the challenge and the plan to meet it.

**Note carefully: As of January 1, 2008, all new sites and everything added to the HHS Web must be in full compliance with Section 508.**

The challenge of bringing our full Web inventory into compliance is enormous-- but the Web community's can-do response to date demonstrates it can be done.

Learn more:  
[hhs.gov/web/policies/index.html#508](http://hhs.gov/web/policies/index.html#508)