Feb. 19, 1907

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Feb. 19, 1907, the day smallpox was making its way through our state, en route to the Capitol.

Smallpox was considered to be one of the most dangerous virus on the planet, at one point. Fortunately, it was considered eradicated by 1977. But before then, it wreaked havoc on the Missouri Senate.

Before Feb. 19, a Missouri House resolution was offered that asked all House members and employees to take precautionary measures against smallpox. By Feb. 5, the first case of smallpox is believed to have hit Jefferson City.

By Feb. 19, a number of lawmakers had left Jefferson City. Now, some say this was either not because, or not *just* because, of smallpox. Some media sources say “other extenuating circumstances” were to blame.

Also by Feb. 19, somewhere between 38 and 52 smallpox cases were reported in the Capitol City.

February 19, 1907, the date marking spread of a smallpox outbreak into Jefferson City, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Source: [Missouri Legislative Library](https://www.senate.mo.gov/LegislativeLibrary/Timeline.html))