

Rapid Spread Of Influenza In Pittsburgh

Number of New Cases Is
Largest Yet and Epidemic
Stage Is Apparent.

PREVENTION EFFORTS

Figures showing a relatively more rapid spread of influenza in Pittsburgh than in New York were reported yesterday by the Department of Health. There were 873 new cases for the 24 hours ending at 11 o'clock last night. This makes a total of 1,325 cases since Saturday.

There were 25 deaths from pneumonia, some cases of which were supposed to be complicated with influenza and six deaths reported as being due to influenza alone. The number of pneumonia cases so far reported during October is 114.

Asked if the disease is to be regarded as having reached the epidemic stage Health Director W. H. Davis said:

"You must draw your own conclusions. What constitutes an epidemic is a matter of opinion."

More Than Reported.

In the opinion of some of the physicians connected with the Health Department, the number of influenza cases is actually greater than reported, the attending physicians being reluctant to certify cases as influenza if they can admit an opinion that the disease is something else.

The committee of hospital superintendents held a lengthy meeting yesterday afternoon arranging the details of giving service in fighting the epidemic. It is proposed to use the hospitals as far as possible for the cases which develop among the poor and people living in crowded houses where proper attention cannot be given them. Owners or tenants of houses where a room can be isolated for the care of a patient will be expected to aid in the fight by making this temporary use of their homes and permitting the hospital space to be used by the less fortunately situated.

Red Cross to Supply Nurses.

E. A. Woods, recently appointed to the committee, attended the meeting and reported that the Red Cross will, in an emergency, be able to supply 30 nurses and 150 assistant nurses. The

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committee today will inspect buildings recommended for use as hospitals in case they are needed.

As there seems to be some confusion as to the regulations affecting the opening of churches, the Department of Public Health yesterday issued the following statement on the subject:

All churches are to be closed to the public on Sundays. On week days church buildings may be opened to individuals for private worship, but no congregation or group shall be allowed to enter. Funerals are not permitted to enter churches.

Organizations of various kinds continued yesterday to order the discon-

tinuance of gatherings involving the drawing of crowds.

Judge John D. Shafer, president of the common pleas court, issued the following statement relative to jury trials and court sessions:

On account of the prevalence of influenza, jurymen who had been summoned for duty in the Common Pleas and county courts on the second Monday of October have been excused from duty and will not be required to report. Until the resumption of jury trials the court will convene at 10 o'clock in the morning instead of 9:30. No session will be held in the afternoon unless required by the urgency of the business.

Col. Franklin Blackstone, commander of the Third Regiment, Pennsylvania Reserve Militia, of this city, received orders from Adj. Gen. Frank D. Beary of Harrisburg to discontinue all drills for the present because of the epidemic of influenza.

Organizing Committees.

Dr. Adolph Koenig, acting county medical inspector, yesterday received a telephone message from the State Department of Health in Harrisburg requesting him to organize committees in every borough and township in Allegheny, Washington and Greene counties, to prepare for an epidemic of influenza. He is preparing to organize members of Council, burgesses and boards of health in the boroughs and townships to take charge of any situation that may arise.

"The epidemic is coming West and covering an area of about 100 miles daily," said Dr. Koenig yesterday. "The disease is attacking about 15 per cent of the population in the cities and then spreading out to suburbs and is causing about five per cent deaths."

All dispensaries in the state have been closed and will remain so until the disease is stamped out, according to Dr. Koenig. He has arranged with Miss Laura Meyer, in charge of the State Tuberculosis Dispensary in Pittsburgh, to hold nurses in the service ready for emergency calls. The

following nurses and their respective districts are available now to answer calls for aid:

Miss Holmes, Miss Bush, Miss Platter and Miss Neff, Pittsburgh; Miss Barclay, Homestead; Miss Hinkert, McKeesport; Miss Plenner, Braddock; Miss Hurst, Tarentum; Miss Hurley, Wilkinsburg; Miss Riley, Washington; and Miss Dunkeakle, Monongahela City.

Co-operating with Dr. Koenig in the organization of borough and township committees are:

Dr. H. G. Noah, Dr. E. R. Wiese, Dr. Fouce, Dr. Reener, Dr. J. C. Burt, Dr. Ludwig, Pittsburgh; Dr. W. L. Thunhorst and Dr. D. D. Beggs, Wilkinsburg; Dr. D. F. Whitfield, Braddock; Dr. John Reed, McKeesport; Dr. A. E. Fogelman, Homestead; Dr. S. F. McCombs, Tarentum.

Drills Discontinued.

Sheriff W. S. Haddock, commander-in-chief of the Buckshot Brigade of Allegheny county, directed the unit commanders of the Buckshot Brigade to discontinue all drills until further notice. Commander J. H. Bruff, of the Brigade, has discontinued the meeting of the unit commanders and the staff officers of the Brigade, scheduled for October 18.

At a meeting of the Department of Health of Stowe township, held in the Municipal building, orders were issued that all churches and Sunday Schools be closed until the epidemic of influenza had been stamped out.

Fifteen cases of influenza were reported to the Tarentum Board of Health. Six cases were discovered in one house.

Health authorities in Tarentum have ordered drinking water boiled as the result of a typhoid fever outbreak. All church meetings, except one morning service on Sundays have been forbidden in Tarentum.

Whitaker borough's two schools, the Stoddard and the Whitaker, were ordered closed by the board of health. While no cases of influenza had been discovered among the pupils, many had been sent home because of colds

and the health officials decided upon the closing order.

Officials of the Pressed Steel Car Company, McKees Rocks, have adopted their own preventive measures against the influenza epidemic.

John O. Jones, secretary of the North Braddock Board of Health, yesterday issued an order closing the borough's schools and prohibiting all church meetings until further notice. The action was taken after the Braddock Ministerial Association and the North Braddock School Board had recommended that it be done.