

BIG DECREASE IN INFLUENZA CASES SHOWN

Drop of 268 From Yesterday
Believed to Indicate Early
Passing of Epidemic.

PNEUMONIA ALSO ABATES.

Ban Modified; City May Get
Power to Lift Restrictions
at Its Discretion.

With only 360 new cases of influenza reported to the city health department for the period from 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon to 10 o'clock this morning, a decrease of 268 from the total of a similar period ending 11 o'clock yesterday morning, Pittsburgh, it is believed, is rapidly being freed from the epidemic that has gripped it for a month.

Fifty-four new cases of pneumonia, a decrease of 15 from yesterday's figure, also were reported by the bureau of infectious diseases of the city department of health for the period.

The number of deaths show an increase of seven over yesterday's report. There were 12 deaths from influenza, 21 from pneumonia and 46 from influenza-pneumonia.

CHURCHES DISCUSSED.

Authority for the removal of the epidemic closing regulations in Pittsburgh may be placed in the hands of the city department of health within the next few days, it is believed. Following a report made by Dr. Wilmer R. Barr, state registrar, to State Health Commissioner B. Franklin Royer yesterday, after Dr. Barr had studied the situation in city and county.

The large decrease in the number of new cases of influenza may result in the ban being lifted on the churches Sunday, according to Director W. H. Davis, of the department of public health. The director declared that there was a chance of allowing services to be conducted in the morning only. A definite ruling will be made on the question tomorrow.

It was also announced by the director that the vaccine serum being made in the West Penn and Allegheny General hospitals and in the Sinker laboratory, is now ready for use, and that the vaccine will be distributed through the Red Cross or the Chamber of Commerce building. If physicians desire the serum for charity purposes, the director says, they can obtain it from Dr. Philip A. Marks, superintendent of the bureau of infectious diseases.

PEAK IS PASSED.

Following his examination of conditions, Dr. Barr expressed the opinion that the peak of the epidemic reached Pittsburgh Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week. Since then, the disease has shown a steady, though not rapid, increase. The death rate is still high, but this, it is explained, is a normal epidemic condition, the peak of mortality rate always coming several days behind the peak of morbidity; meanwhile a modification of the restrictive influenza measures in the city authorized in a telegram from Dr. Barr to Major Davis yesterday. This telegram permits meetings of lodges, unions and labor organizations and "directorates," provided the attendance is limited to the minimum number of persons who can conduct the necessary business. The reference to directorates is construed to mean gatherings of executive committees and essential workers of war work organizations. Meetings thus privileged, it was recom-

LAST WEEK'S DEATH LIST TOTALS 1,032

Influenza Cases Reached
5,505, With 84 Deaths.
335 Die From Pneumonia.

The total deaths from all causes in Pittsburgh for the week ending October 26 were 1,032 and for the previous week the number was 705, according to the weekly morbidity and mortality report of the department of public health.

During the week there were 84 cases of influenza reported and 54 deaths. For the same period pneumonia caused 335 deaths and 501 cases were reported. Other cases reported were diphtheria, 21 cases and 7 deaths; measles, 10 cases and 7 deaths; scarlet fever, 8 cases; tuberculosis, 16 cases and 16 deaths; typhoid fever, 2 cases and 1 death; chickenpox, four cases; whooping cough, 4 cases.

The total mortality for the corresponding week of last year was 175. The total mortality during the present year to October 26 was 10,302 and the total for 1917 for the same period was 1,278.