

TWELFTH NAVAL DISTRICT
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

25 September 1918

LLW-WW

From: Senior Surgeon L.L. Williams, U.S.P.H.S.
 To : Bureau of Medicine & Surgery, Navy
 Department, Washington, D.C.
 Via : Commandant, Navy Yard, Mare Island, Calif.
 Commandant, 12th Naval District,
 San Francisco, California.

SUBJECT: Medical conference at Navy Yard, Mare Island, Calif.
 in regard to preventive measures being taken against
 approaching epidemic of influenza.

Inclosure: (1)

1. In compliance with official orders of the 23d inst., I visited the Navy Yard, Mare Island, California, on the 24th inst., and conferred with the Medical Officer in Command of the Naval Hospital, Mare Island, and the Surgeon of the Yard.

2. After free discussion of the practical measures which might be instituted, it was unanimously agreed that the following named recommendations be put into operation as soon as practicable with a view to limiting the spread of influenza, should it appear at the Station.

Prophylactic measures.

(a) No recruits or drafts to be sent to this station. (This provision to go into effect when cases begin to appear in surrounding country.)

(b) No sleeping space to have more assigned to it than it can accommodate on a basis of 50 square feet of floor space per man. (This distribution to be made at once and preserved. Any overflow of men to be placed in tents.)

(c) In all sleeping spaces cubicle isolation to be established e.g. curtain hung between each bunk on cot and each hammock. In the case of bunks or cots, the curtain to pass around the head of the bunk. (This to be established as rapidly as possible.)

(d) Notices of instruction to personnel civilian and military to be posted and distributed broadcast and thrown on screens at moving picture shows. (Type of notice submitted with Medical Officer's letter of September 23, 1918.)

(e) No general quarantine of personnel established. (This is deemed impracticable and valueless.) No separation between civilian and military personnel. (This is deemed impracticable and valueless.)

3. A copy of the notice prepared by the Surgeon of the Yard, and posted for the information of all concerned, is inclosed.

4. The question of dealing with the sick among the civilian employees of the Yard was discussed and the fact brought out that many of these employees are living in Vallejo, in small lodgings, and obtaining their subsistence at various restaurants. Under these circumstances it would be impracticable for such employees to obtain adequate medical care from civil sources. As a measure of conservation of their labor, as well as on account of the reflex effect on the personnel of the yard proper, it was the sense of the conference that the Government make provision for the care of these persons, if practicable.

L. L. Williams

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible, appearing to be a list of instructions or a continuation of a report. It contains several numbered items, possibly (a) through (e), but the specific details are obscured by fading.]