

City Officials Warn Public That Health Department Order Must Be Observed Strictly

At a conference in the mayor's office this morning, attended by Mayor Babcock, Major W. H. Davis, director of public health; Dr. H. J. Benz, superintendent of the bureau of child welfare; Dr. Philip E. Marks, superintendent of the bureau of infectious diseases; John J. McKelvey, director of charities; Stephen Stone, city solicitor and Thomas M. Benner, assistant city solicitor, Director Davis, who has authority in the premises, issued the following statements:

The order issued by the State Commissioner of Health will be enforced in its entirety. This means that all public assemblages must cease. The Liberty Loan committee has been advised that all meetings must be called off and that there cannot be any parades. The theaters, the moving picture shows, the management of all public dancing academies and the management of all public halls have been advised that they must close their places.

All saloons have been told to close. In the absence of specific instructions they have been told that they can keep their restaurants open where a restaurant is conducted in connection with a saloon but that they must not allow any patron to loiter on the premises.

The city has a well organized system of supervising the public, private and parochial schools. Instructions were given early in the day to send home all children who had coughs or colds and to make a special report to the department of any serious cases. Parents are requested to keep children that are coughing or who have colds at home, but not to deprive them of fresh air.

Attention is also called to the order that prohibits visiting of the sick, except where the illness is serious. Attention is also called to the provision that all funerals must be private. This relates to all cases, irrespective of the cause of death.

The camps of the United States troops in Pittsburgh have been placed under strict quarantine by Major E. W. Day, senior medical officer in Pittsburgh. Guard lines have been established around the camps. The soldiers will not be permitted to leave except in military formation, marching to their drills or to their barracks. The public must respect the quarantine lines as indicated by the sentries, whose power in this respect is unquestioned.

The question of opening the churches and Sunday schools will be decided later.

All football games scheduled for tomorrow are prohibited. The same prohibition applies to all future games until further notice from the State Department of Health.

Immediately after the conference between the mayor and his cabinet, Director Pritchard issued the necessary order to the Central and district police stations and the patrolmen began notifying amusement places and saloons of the order. In most cases they found that the proprietors had already complied with it. In some few instances saloons were still dispensing, but closed their bars promptly upon request.

Attention was called by the city officials to the fact that under the state laws the city must prosecute at once all violators of the order.