

Papers of Mayor James Rolph

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CENTRAL OFFICE
1085 MISSION STREET

November 21st, 1918.

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of proc.*

When replying quote subject:

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Honorable James Rolph,
Mayor, City and County of
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:-

At a special meeting of the Board of Health held on November 21st, 1918, at 11:30 A. M., a resolution was adopted recommending to His Honor, the Mayor, the issuing of a proclamation rescinding the mask ordinance, as follows:

Whereas, upon the report of the Health Officer evidence shows that the epidemic of Influenza which has been in our City since October 10th, 1918 has ceased to exist, and,

Whereas, in the opinion of the Board of Health and the Health Officer the preventive measure adopted on October 24, 1918, to-wit: the wearing of a gauze mask over the nose and mouth was the principal protective measure which resulted in the rapid control of the disease, and,

Whereas, by the splendid spirit and co-operation upon the part of the people of the city and county of San Francisco, as well as the administrative bodies of the city, to-wit: His Honor the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors and the Police Department, it was possible to apply for the first time to an entire population of a large metropolitan city what appeared to be an unique measure but which has proven itself a sane and rational preventive measure against the spread of an epidemic disease of the respiratory type, therefore,

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Health acknowledge this spirit of co-operation, thank His Honor, the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors and the Police Department, the public press and the people of San Francisco for the hearty and intelligent support in a measure which undoubtedly has saved 20,000 cases of illness and prevented 1500 deaths, and further,

Be It Resolved, that we now inform His Honor, the Mayor and the public of San Francisco that we feel the need for the universal wearing of the mask to have ceased and request that the Mayor issue a proclamation to this effect.

The Board of Health, however, desires to state to the public that in the event of a substantial relighting of the epidemic it may again be necessary to resort to the general use of masks, and further in view of the fact that the disease exists in epidemic form in other portions of this state and throughout the East, we would recommend,

1. That all persons coming in contact with travelers from outside the city, particularly those engaged in hotels and lodging houses, wear a mask as a protective measure.

2. That all those who are convalescing from the disease, and all members of the family of one who is suffering from Influenza should wear a mask for one week after all symptoms of the disease have passed.

3. That persons who find themselves coming down with a cold wear a mask while going about and while in contact with others, and that all employers request and enforce the wearing of a mask by those in their employ who may be suffering from an acute or fresh cold while at work and while in contact with fellow employes and the public,

4. That no visitors shall be allowed in any hospital where Influenza exists unless the protective mask is worn.

By obedience to these regulations we feel that the citizens of this city will safeguard themselves against possible infection from unknown carriers and others coming from infected sections.

Respectfully,
Board of Health,
per

William C. Fowler
Health Officer.

WCE/M

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