

STATE HEALTH BOARD CLOSES ALL THEATERS

Churches Permitted to Hold Half Hour Service; 866 New Cases Reported

MASKS ARE RECOMMENDED

Public Library and Auditorium Shut; Lemare Recitals Are Discontinued

The State Board of Health yesterday ordered all moving-picture houses and other theaters throughout the State closed as a precautionary measure against the spread of influenza.

The State Board, however, recommended against closing churches and schools. In regard to the latter, the Board said:

"In the opinion of the State Board of Health, schools should be kept open wherever the teachers can be relied upon to immediately exclude any child appearing with symptoms of any sort of illness. The well children in schools kept open in this manner will be much safer from contagion than if the schools were closed and they were free to associate on the streets. Churches, likewise, should not be required to close.

The number of new influenza cases reported yesterday in San Francisco was 866, making a total of 3783 cases reported. There were twenty deaths yesterday, making a total of seventy.

The resolution of the San Francisco Board of Health adopted Thursday night ordered among other things that there should be no indoor services in the churches. Yesterday this order was modified to this extent: That churches may hold indoor services not longer than one-half hour, although the board advises that open-air services be held instead when possible.

WILLINGNESS EXPRESSED

The San Francisco Church Federation expressed its willingness yesterday to comply with the order of the San Francisco Board of Health by adopting the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the executive committee of the San Francisco Church Federation recommends that all the churches comply with the action of the Board of Health with reference to the closing of churches, and that no services or Sunday-school meetings be held during the prevalence of influenza in our midst. The action of the Health Board in this matter in our judgment should be cheerfully and patriotically complied with. In taking this action we urge upon the people the prompt reporting of all cases of influenza and remaining away from other persons when infected with colds or influenza and the cultivation of a wholesome and optimistic spirit and a sense of God's nearness. This is not a time for panic or fear, but for faith, care and courage. Living in this spirit it is safe to feel that no plague shall come nigh thy dwelling."

STATE INSTRUCTIONS

The State Board of Health cautions against hysteria, emphasizing its instructions for those who are attacked with the infection to immediately go to their homes and report to a physician. The Board says:

"It is particularly desirable that the public be not encouraged in acquiring a state of hysterical alarm concerning influenza. While the disease is of great importance on account of the extremely contagious nature, there is no reason for the people to become unduly alarmed because if those who are attacked by the infection will follow the instructions to immediately go to their homes and go to bed and call their physician, their chances of escaping the serious complication of pneumonia are very greatly increased."

The gauze mask is an efficient protection for the wearer. Masks are important for those caring for influenza patients. City Health Officer William C. Hassler yesterday ordered their use by all barbers, and recommended clerks who come in contact with the public to wear them for their own protection.

PERSONAL CAUTION

The State Board of Health takes the position that while the masking of the entire population of the State would stop the further spread of the influenza, wearing masks by individuals cannot be more than a measure of personal caution. They were worn yesterday by clerks in some of the department stores.

The Board of Health telephone operators were busy all day yesterday answering inquiries as to the application of the closing order to specific cases. This source of telephone questioning led to confusion in some cases. But the authoritative statement of the Board of Health is that the order applies to all public meetings.

Dr. Hassler added yesterday that public funerals come within the scope of the order, and that it was expected that no funeral would be public.

HEALTH INSTRUCTIONS

Physicians were requested by the Board of Health yesterday not to send influenza patients to the San Francisco Hospital without notice, but to call the Central Emergency Hospital by telephone, when arrangements would be made to care for those cases where there was an evident danger of pneumonia. Dr. Hassler said it had been the practice of some physicians to send patients by street car to the San Francisco Hospital and that this must stop.

The Public Library and the Civic Auditorium were both closed yesterday, and notice was given that the Lemare organ recitals would be discontinued. Police Court Judges decided to continue all misdemeanor cases before them, to reduce the length of Police Court sessions.

WORKROOMS TO OPEN

The Red Cross workrooms will remain open. There is ample ventilation, and all the workers wear masks. It is stated that there is special need for workers now, particularly in making influenza gauze masks for nurses and relatives of influenza patients. It was announced that the workrooms at 942 Market street would be open on Sunday, so that those prevented from attending church by the Health Board order might find an opportunity for usefulness.

It was reported yesterday that less than one-tenth of the cases develop pneumonia, and it was urged that by going immediately to bed this danger may be reduced to a minimum. The death rate from influenza cases at Fort Scott and the Presidio is reported to be less than one and one-half per cent, and that while the number of cases is slightly increasing nearly all are mild in degree.

The Red Cross and the State Board of Health emphasize the necessity of all those engaged in the immediate care of influenza patients wearing gauze masks.