

INFLUENZA MASKS FOR ALL

Health Board Decides General Use of Gauze, Covering Is Necessary

LABOR COUNCIL TO ACT
Unions to Forbid Men to Go to Jobs Without Protection From Epidemic

Masks for every person in the city was determined upon by the Board of Health last night as the only effective measure to stop the spread of influenza.

The board did not go the length of making this an official order but prepared a proclamation which was issued last night by the Mayor urging every person to wear the mask out of regard both for his own safety and that of others.

Joining with the Mayor and the Board of Health in the proclamation were the San Francisco Labor Council, the Building Trades Council, the State Council of Defense, the Retail Dry Goods Association, the Restaurant Men's Association, the Red Cross, the Chamber of Commerce and Postmaster Charles W. Fay.

MANDATE BY UNIONS
Some of the associations have already made the matter the subject of an order to members, and Secretary John O'Connell of the Labor Council told the Board of Health that mandatory instructions would go out to all the unions affiliated with the Council that their men cannot work unless they wear masks.

After Health Officer William C. Hassler and Dr. Woods Hutchinson of Boston, where the epidemic has been most severe, had explained the urgent need and the efficiency of the mask, all the organizations represented at the meeting of the Board of Health pledged their unqualified support of the measure.

Up to 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon 1144 new cases of influenza had been reported for the day, with forty-one deaths. This brings the total of reported cases for the city up to 6244, with 163 deaths. Very many cases are believed to be unreported, either because doctors have been unable to get them or because they have been slight. One physician alone reported 153 cases at one time.

Dr. William C. Hassler announced last night that no physician sent to a house by or from the Board of Health in the present emergency would charge a fee for his visit. He explained that doctors who have volunteered their services for emergency calls and who answer such calls for the Board of Health, will not expect or accept a fee.

"Of course we want every individual or family to call their own physician if possible," he said. "But where we send one no charge will be made."

MASKS EFFECTIVE
That the wearing of a simple gauze mask will forestall the disease, and that if it is worn generally by all the population of the city, San Francisco will escape the consequences that have been felt in the East, was agreed by all who attended the meeting of the Board of Health last night. "No person need fear influenza if a protective gauze mask is worn," said Dr. Hassler.

Dr. Hassler and Dr. Woods Hutchinson explained that the influenza can be contracted only from the exhalations of the breath of a person who has it, and that the germ dies quickly unless it secures a lodgment in the mouth or nostrils.

The mask, they said, serves as a screen that will effectually catch and tangle the moist germ, which then quickly dies. The mask need not be tied closely over the face, they said, but is sufficient if it hangs over the nose and mouth.

On the other hand, both physicians stated that influenza is one of the few diseases that may be caught easily in the open air. Just so long as the floating germs may be drawn into the nostrils soon after they have been expelled from the throat or nose of a person affected, the disease may be caught. It was pointed out.

DON MASKS! ROLPH URGES AS BEST MEANS OF AVOIDING RISKS

TO THE PEOPLE OF SAN FRANCISCO: You are face to face with a deadly epidemic. Already it has begun to make its record of death in our city. It must be stopped! It is the duty of every person to help stop it.

The Board of Public Health has left no stone unturned to find the best means of fighting the growing death lists: Its word to the public is, "Wear Masks." As Mayor I request every man, woman and child in San Francisco to take this advice of the health authorities. Wear these masks and save your lives and those of your children and your neighbors.

The Italian Supreme Command has printed on every gas mask: "Who leaves this mask behind dies." You run that chance if you fail your city now and do not wear a mask. Masks may prevent half or more of the sickness and death with which we are confronted. Every mask will cut down our possible total of 50,000 cases and 1500 deaths.

This proclamation has the concurrence of the Board of Public Health the Red Cross, the State Council of Defense, organized labor, organized associations of merchants, charitable organizations and other public bodies. Conscience, patriotism and self-protection demand immediate and rigid compliance.

Respectfully,
JAMES ROLPH, Mayor.

that we want general co-operation to keep it down to 5 or 6 per cent.

It is well known that the course of the epidemic is about three months. For the next two weeks you may expect 1000 new cases a day. The efficiency of the wearing masks regardless of what other cities have done. The vital necessity of the mask is the thing we want to drive home to the people of San Francisco.

That from the experience of Eastern cities San Francisco might expect 50,000 cases and 1200 deaths unless strenuous measures are taken to check the disease, was the word of Dr. Woods Hutchinson.

GIVES OFF GERMS

He explained that one of the greatest dangers arises from the fact that it is only two or three days after the person's judgment in the nostrils that the affected person finds himself sick, and that during the time he is constantly giving off the germs to infect others.

After a conference with Mayor Rolph, John A. Britton and Dr. Hutchinson brought back word that the Mayor would give the "gift" support to whatever measures the Board of Health thought necessary. The proclamation was then decided upon.

\$50,000 APPROPRIATED

John A. Britton of the Red Cross reported that the organization has appropriated \$50,000 for relief work, and will do as much more as its means will permit. E. H. L. Gregory of the Red Cross influenza committee reported that 45,000 masks were distributed by the Red Cross yesterday and that 100,000 more will be ready for distribution today at nine depots in the city. Red Cross doctors, said Britton, stand ready to take care of all calls, and if it is determined that the case needs a doctor and a nurse those will be sent.

It was announced that the United States Shipping Board had issued orders that all men in all the ship-building plants on both sides of the bay must put on masks today. A further announcement was made that a culture of an influenza serum developed and found efficacious at Seattle had been received at the United States Marine Hospital and would soon be ready for distribution to physicians.

TO PLACARD CITY

Today, according to President Arthur Barendt, of the Board of Health, the city will be placarded with red signs reading:

"Influenza—wear your mask and save your life."

Postmaster Charles W. Fay offered to give the assistance of his department in distributing circulars throughout the city. Circulars prepared under the direction of the Board of Health are now ready for distribution.

Leon L. Roos, of the Retail Dry Goods Association, told the Board that the association, at a meeting yesterday morning, voted to back up the orders of the Board of Health and had ordered the wearing of masks by all of the 15,000 employees of its members. President John J. Eppinger, of the Restaurant Men's Association, made a similar report.

President Theodore Roche of the Police Commission pledged the support of the Police Department. S. D. McNear and Robert N. Lynch promised the aid of the Chamber of Commerce.

CHURCHES AID FIGHT

The churches have agreed not to

hold any indoor services, and E. H. L. Gregory reported that Archbishop E. J. Hanna, Bishop W. F. Nichols, the Jewish Relief Society and other church organizations have pledged co-operation in the fight.

The United Railroads and the Municipal Railways yesterday ordered all of their employees to wear masks. Thousands of masks were supplied yesterday by the Red Cross to large employers, in addition to the 45,000 distributed to the public. A line a clock long stood all day before the depot at 26 Montgomery street, at which the Red Cross masks were given out. Seven factories were busy making masks yesterday.

Without special permission in each case all public meetings have been forbidden and it was stated at the Board of Health yesterday that permission will not be given except for meetings necessary to government work.

A permit has been given for a luncheon conference of the Bay Coun-

ties Organization of Child Care Institutions and Agencies to discuss ways and means of caring for orphaned children.

A permit has also been given to continue the University of California's extension classes in mathematics and navigation to prepare men for entrance to officers' training camps and the merchant marine. All other classes of the University's extension courses have been discontinued.

Dr. W. H. Kellogg, secretary of the State Board of Health, said yesterday that, although statistics from Eastern cities where influenza has been raging might indicate that California would have 150,000 cases before the disease ran its course, he believed the favorable climatic conditions of this State and the preventive methods being used would materially lessen that number.

CALLS FOR ACTION

The State Council of Defense yesterday issued a bulletin to the county councils calling for prompt action in fighting influenza. The State council included a warning that unless immediate measures are taken State and county authorities may be compelled to take drastic action.

The Board of Supervisors yesterday referred to the Finance Committee a proposal to place 500 additional beds in the San Francisco Hospital.

As a preventive measure the Superior Judges met yesterday and decided to take the following precautions:

No contested cases or jury trials will be heard for at least four weeks.

ONLY THOSE INTERESTED

Only the probate departments of the Superior Court will be kept open at the City Hall.

Only persons directly interested in cases will be permitted in court.

During all sessions of court the windows and doors will be kept open. Janitors were instructed to do no sweeping during the hours the City Hall is open to the public.

Grant Munson, chief clerk of the marriage license bureau, is ill at his home, 122 Eighteenth avenue, with influenza. He was taken ill Sunday.

MASKS SHOULD BE MADE OF 4 LAYERS OF GAUZE

Masks for protection against influenza, according to the Board of Health's circular issued yesterday, should be five by seven inches and made of four layers of fine gauze. Tape or strings should be sewed to the four corners. The upper pair of tapes are to be tied at the back of the head above the

ears and the lower pair around the neck.

The mask, says the circular, should not be medicated in any way. It can be cleaned by rolling for fifteen minutes.

During the epidemic, says the circular, all persons and especially those who have come in contact with a case, should gargle the throat and spray the nose several times daily with Dobell's solution or Dichloramine T diluted in water. If these are not obtainable a solution of one to two teaspoons each of borax, salt and bicarbonate of soda in one quart of warm water may be used. This, it is said, is about as good as Dobell's solution.