

# Wear Masks in Public Places, Alameda Edict

## Health Department Reports Show Fewer New Cases, but Fight on Epidemic Continues.

Alameda's health department reports yesterday indicated a marked falling off of new influenza cases but at the same time officials expressed the belief that in reality the epidemic's grip had not abated.

Doctors, working literally night and day, have not been able to make out reports of new cases, said attendants, who declared that from calls for assistance emanating from new quarters, they felt the number reported should be at least doubled.

But one fatality was reported for the past 24 hours, that of Mrs. Meta Thomas, 39, of 341 Lincoln avenue.

At a meeting of the Committee on Influenza, held at noon in the health department's office, it was again decided to defer the establishment of a temporary hospital for cases lacking home care. It was announced by City Physician A. D. Hieronymus that arrangements had been made with a private sanitarium to care for a limited number of urgent cases.

Another appeal was sent forth for women assistants to go into homes where entire families are stricken. Women who can provide motor cars are also needed. Volunteers were asked to report at Health Department headquarters, City Hall.

City Manager C. E. Howes, himself at home ill with the influenza, caused a proclamation to be issued calling on citizens to don masks in all public places, and intimated that otherwise the City Council would be asked to adopt an ordinance compelling them to be worn. It was explained that citizens could drop masks while in the open air if not in contact with others.