

DR. HASSLER COMMENDED FOR MASKING

Health Officer Predicts That City
Will Be Free From Influenza
Within the Next Four Days

Number of New Cases Reported
Dropped Yesterday to 118 and
11 Deaths Only Were Recorded

Date.	New Cases.	Deaths.
January 10-----	612	37
January 11-----	365	43
January 12-----	520	26
January 13-----	363	40
January 14-----	469	41
January 15-----	510	50
January 16-----	538	46
January 17-----	519	39
January 18-----	504	26
January 19-----	490	16
January 20-----	366	41
January 21-----	170	19
January 22-----	152	11
January 23-----	118	11

*Mask law became effective.

San Francisco will be free from new influenza cases in four days in the opinion of Dr. W. C. Hassler, Health Officer.

He made this prediction last night after a review of the situation in this city.

New influenza cases continued rapidly to decline yesterday, and the deaths remained at their low average.

For the 24-hours' period up to 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon 118 new cases were reported, 72 by telephone and 46 by mail. The number of deaths recorded was 11.

COMMENDED FOR FIGHT.

A flood of letters poured upon Dr. Hassler yesterday from citizens, commending him for insisting upon the general wearing of masks despite considerable opposition.

The mask ordinance went into effect one week ago today and since then there has been a rapid decline in the number of cases of influenza. The figures yesterday were in sharp contrast to those of last Thursday, when 538 cases were reported, with 46 deaths.

Dr. Hassler said:

Influenza is being wiped out so thoroughly by the general wearing of masks that the San Francisco hospital is rapidly becoming emptied of "flu" patients and we began yesterday to transfer back to the hospital patients suffering from other diseases who were transferred to the Relief Home.

PROVED THEIR EFFICACY.

At the Board of Health headquarters we are receiving no further calls for doctors or nurses. The wearing of the masks by 100 per cent of the citizens has proved its efficacy.

New cases will drop at the rate of 50 a day. We must still exercise caution, as we want no return of the disease. I cannot impress this fact too strongly, and I suggest also that citizens exercise their vigilance in building up their body resistance.

Masks must be worn for some time, according to the health authorities, and Chief White has issued instructions to his men to rigidly enforce the ordinance.