

PHONE 4-2024

DR. JOHN RANDOLPH HAYNES  
429 CONSOLIDATED REALTY BUILDING  
S. W. COR. SIXTH AND HILL STREETS  
LOS ANGELES, CAL.

December 2, 1918

To the  
MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL,

Gentlemen:

May I suggest to your Honorable Body that before removing the influenza ban on public gatherings, you take into consideration the following facts:

1. Dr. George W. McCoy, for twenty years or more, a government expert on epidemics, Director of the Hygienic Laboratory at Washington, D.C., who came to Los Angeles to aid the authorities in overcoming this disease and whose opinion concerning the utility of masks as a preventive has been widely quoted, stated that the ban on public gatherings in Los Angeles should not be removed until the number of new cases reported in twenty-four hours dropped to fifty or less. Now, the number of new cases reported to the Health Officer for the twenty-four hours ending at 5 o'clock November 30th, was 346 and the number of deaths 26 for the same period. San Francisco did not repeal the mask ordinance until the number of daily cases reported fell to 31 and did not remove the ban on public assemblies until the number fell to 6.

2. Many cities in the United States, among others being Pasadena, Riverside; San Diego, Santa Barbara, Denver, Colorado, Cheyenne, Wyoming, after having taken off the ban once, were compelled to renew it; and it is worthy of consideration to note that almost without exception the cities which found it necessary to renew the ban on public gatherings at the same time decided to enact ordinances making the wearing of masks compulsory.

In view of these facts, do you think it the part of wisdom to remove the ban today?

Yours very truly,

*John R. Haynes*

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