

Conducting a search of the Argus Courier from June 1918 - March 1919 using the keywords: <flu mask>gave rise to many articles about the flu including the cause, symptoms, concerns, and politics. The paper reported numbers of cases across the country as well as information that readers could use to help them decide their own course of action. This timeline centers on those articles relating to masks and their use.

Setting the stage:

The war was going strong in early 1918 and signs of a pandemic style flu was being noted. By October, cities and towns all over the world were working to stop the rate of infection. Masks were one way to quell the spread.

Here is the timeline of those articles from October 1918 - March 1919. Enjoy the trip!

The first 'flu masks' in Petaluma were noted On October 22, 1918: "half a dozen passengers who alighted at the depot wore their masks and kept them on, these being the first masks to be seen on the streets of this city. In San Francisco, orders have been given that all persons who appear on the streets must wear these masks".

October 30,
1918

Spanish Influenza

We have received a stock of
Naseptic cotton to be used
in the nostrils

For those desiring Influenza Masks we have Antiseptic gauze at San Francisco prices. One yard, makes 4 masks 25c, 5 yards, makes 22 masks, 90c.

Atomizers are out of the market entirely. People are using Glass Nasal douches.

Dobell's Solution 6 oz.	25c,	Pints	35c
Listerine	30c	Glyco Thymoline		35c
Liquid Antiseptic	25c	A & A Rexall Solution ..		25c
Zepyrol	25c	Rexall Throat Gargle ..		40c
		Peroxide		15 & 25c

Clark Drug Co.

Enrolling Agents U. S. Merchant Marine.

—Some of the local ladies who have chiffon or crepe de chine at hand have fashioned dainty **flu masks** from these materials and they are dainty and more effective than the other materials owing to the close meshes. But everybody cannot have them.

Nov 2, 1918

**MUST WEAR MASKS IN TOWN
EVEN IF RIDING IN AUTOS**

Nov 5, 1918

One noted reason for wearing masks even in the car included the ease with which one can forget to put it on when getting out.

Sure it's war and pestilence, but everybody is happy. We are beating the Hun and beating the Flu. Watch 'em run.
◆ ◆

Nov 4, 1918

The Flu was prevalent throughout the country in early November 1918.

GAUZE MASKS

Sterilized gauze masks with elastic may be obtained for 20c at the Woman's Exchange. We have a lot of good homemanded things to eat. We will make to order anything desired if order is given 24 hours ahead. 165 Main St. Phone 693J .-tf

The women's exchange was a shop that carried home made items including crochet, knitted and sewn clothing as well as home made jams, pickles and more.

We invite everyone to call at our store and look at our large assortment of hand embroidered and crocheted articles; also our hand painted china. You do not have to buy, and we are glad to show you our work. Woman's Exchange. 165 Main street. tf

Nov. 3, 1918

Get in style. Wear the mask or the muzzle, whichever you want to call it. If it is custom it is law, but whether or no, wear it. You might be helping someone else. The Board of Health has authority under the police power of the constitution to require everybody to wear masks or carry shotguns, if the health or lives of people are endangered. It matters not about law or authority, the orders are to wear masks. Obey.

M. de Permentier, arrested by Officer Bert Masten was fined \$15. He paid five dollars into the coffers of the court and ten dollars to the Red Cross. He resented the officer's advice relative to the **mask**.

Nov 5, 1918

Not everyone was happy about the mask rules.

—In San Francisco, all fines collected from mask law violators go to the war fund drive. Why not do the same in Petaluma. The coin is badly needed and there are numerous slackers.

Nov 18, 1918

—San Francisco discarded the “flu” masks on Thursday at noon and the action was signaled by bells and whistles.

Nov 21, 1918

It's beginning to look good for the end of the Flu...

Nov 22,
1918

HEALTH BOARD MEETS TONIGHT

The Health Board will meet in special session this evening and it is an open secret that the meeting will be for the purpose of deciding on the date for discarding the flu masks and for removing the health restrictions, owing to the fact that the influenza is now greatly on the wane and is really mastered.

It is not known what course the board will take after discussing the matter but those who think that they know, believe that the board will order the removal of the masks on Saturday night when the county ordinance will also be suspended.

What the board will do about the schools, theaters, etc., is another question but it is predicted that they will be allowed to open again with the understanding that masks be worn at all indoor gatherings for a limited period as in San Francisco. Tonight will tell the tale and the whole city is anxiously awaiting the decision of the board.

PETALUMA HAS UNMASKED AFTER MUZZLED MISERY

At the special meeting of the City Board of Health yesterday with President Gossage presiding it was decided to lift the ban and remove all restrictions which have been enforced during the epidemic of the influenza. The flu mask order was suspended and the people of the city after weeks of muzzled misery again drew a breath of real fresh air. There were no regrets when the citizens were ordered to unmask. The second invitation was not necessary.

The police officers informed citizens and the news was soon circulated that Petaluma had unmasked. Some did not care to comply with the request and are still wearing the muzzles.

The board authorized the opening of schools, churches, and theatres, and the holding of fraternal gatherings etc.

The board has made it compulsory

that all influenza cases be immediately reported and the homes of the patients be immediately placed in quarantine. The rule will be strictly enforced. The physicians are requested to report every new case.

Today will be a busy day in Petaluma. Since the epidemic things have been rather quiet and the people have remained at home.

President Sweed of the board of education announced that the public schools will open on Monday.

Father Kiely has announced that St. Vincent's academy will reopen Monday.

Dr. Duncan stated last night that the quarantine regulations must be enforced.

Signs will be placed at the homes where patients are ill with the disease.

At Sebastopol, masks will be taken off Saturday night.

November 23, 1918
Daily Morning Courier

After the war ended in early November, everyone was glad to return to normal - it appeared that the flu was diminishing and schools could re-open. With some diligence, including signage to be placed in front of the homes of those ill with the flu, it was just good to be done with it.

—The Santa Rosa Health board has issued an order, compelling the wearing of flu masks in all homes where there are cases of the disease.

—Many gauze masks were noticed on the streets Saturday.

Dec 13, 1918

By early December, flu masks were once again being mandated in San Francisco, as the flu showed its appearance again in the larger cities.

Starting on December 11, the Argus began reporting on the spike in flu cases across the state: Los Angeles reported 650 cases in a 24 hour period. By December 19, Napa, San Jose, Modesto, and Fresno all recorded increasing cases. Healdsburg reported an increase on Dec. 14, 1918

—H. H. Oellig had business at Healdsburg on Friday and is glad that he took his flu mask with him.

law suit to compel it to do so.

SANTA ROSA DON MASKS

SANTA ROSA, Dec. 27.—The Santa Rosa mask ordinance goes into effect at midnight and will be rigidly enforced, as decided at a meeting of the city board of health today at the office of Dr. R. M. Bonar, city health officer.

There was some talk of closing the churches and allowing the saloons to remain open, also the rights of the theatres to continue their shows were discussed. It was decided. It was decided as a compromise to exclude children under 12 years of age from theatres and churches to close Sunday schools. Gatherings of adults, where all are masked, will be permitted, and the church be open as usual until further notice.

Cards are to be placed on homes where there are known to be cases of the "flu" and the public will be requested to keep out.

Dec 28, 1918

We begin to see
The surge in late December.

...and yet, we are ever hopeful:

—Flu conditions in Petaluma
are greatly improved.

Dec 30, 1918

BRIEFLETS

—There were five arrests and convictions at Santa Rosa on Monday for failure to wear the flu masks as required by ordinance.

Jan 2, 1919

Back to mask wearing and the Push-back to doing so.

MASK FERMENT

There was a lively meeting of the Sebastopol Board of Trustees on Monday evening when the mask ordinance had an inning and very nearly an outing. A petition bearing 296 signatures was presented to the city fathers, but no action was taken.

There is much antagonism to the mask enactment and much opposition was manifest to its continuance as a city ordinance. Dr. J. W. Kerr, health officer, stood manfully by his guns and secured a postponement until Tuesday afternoon, when it is understood that action will be taken.

Jan 9, 1919

ST VINCENT'S ACADEMY PUPILS MUST TAKE UP HOME STUDIES NOW

Jan 15, 1918

The schools within Petaluma deal with the surge in Flu cases by closing and moving to correspondence courses.

While the rural schools stay open with masks.

—The Cinnabar school, north of this city, reopened on Monday morning, the children wearing masks.

Nothing authoritative has been heard of Saturday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock.

PETALUMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLOSED A GAIN ON WEDNESDAY BY SCHOOL BOARD

The Board of Education again ordered the closing down until further notice of the public schools of this city and this action comes as no surprise owing to the very light attendance at the different schools since they were reopened on Monday morning.

The teachers, whose homes are in other cities, have been notified to remain in this city so that it is very probable that plans are now being made to arrange a correspondence course similar to that now being practiced in many cities of the state. Earlier in the day St. Vincent's academy which had not reopened, announced that plan.

The closing of the schools

should occasion no alarm. It is true there are yet many ill with light cases but many parents refused to allow their children to go to school, owing to nervousness and anxiety and again many do not favor the masks so keep their children at home. Since the schools reopened, pupils have been required to wear masks on the school grounds and in the buildings.

The reopening of the schools was really in the nature of an experienced and in nearly every city in the state the schools are yet closed.

The Board of Education grieved greatly the necessity of again closing the schools, but there was no other course to pursue.

While Petaluma schools were closing, other towns began reporting fewer cases. As January wore on, Napa and Ukiah took off mask rules and opened up socializing.

San Francisco, however, still had mask rules up through Jan 22 - and were breaking them to the tune of over 100 arrests posted in the paper that day.

—At San Francisco on Monday there were over 100 arrests for violation of the flu mask ordinance.

Jan 15, 1919

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**“FLU” DECREASING IN
SANTA ROSA**

There were only seven new cases of “flu” reported to Health Officer Dr. R. M. Bonar for the twenty-four hours ending at noon on Monday.

Since December 5, which was the date of the second outbreak of the disease, a total of 419 cases have been reported to the health officer.
—Republican.

After "Flu" Tonic

Those recuperating slowly from the effects of the "Flu" will do well to take a treatment of **San Tox Tasteless Cod Liver Oil With Iron**. Puts on flesh and makes rich, red blood without disturbing the digestive organs. Builds tissue, gives you strength and excellent if there has been bronchial trouble.

PRICE \$1.00

Towne's Drug Store

Mar 19, 1919

By March 19, 1919 articles on the Flu are far and few inbetween - but there is no shortage of advice for citizens to partake as they work their way back to health