

JOHN E. BARRON
MAYOR
WILLIAM H. BARNES
COUNCILMAN
DWIGHT D. LOCKERBY
COUNCILMAN

CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
WISCONSIN

GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION

JOHN C. FENNESSEY
CITY CLERK AND COMPTROLLER
JOHN B. FLEMING
CORPORATION COUNSEL
FRED W. FROELING
TREASURER

January 14, 1919.

Board of Health,
City.

Gentlemen:

As it is the desire to close the City Hospital not later than February 1st, you are requested and urged to carry out the policy of admitting no further cases to the Hospital except where the Board of Health has approved the same. It is our desire to act in cooperation with your Board and we have understood that favorable conditions as far as the epidemic is concerned would not justify the hospital being operated longer than the date named.

I remain

Very truly yours,
Mayor and Council,

J. E. Barron

Mayor.

W. H. Barnes

D. D. Lockerby

Councilmen.

JEB/CH

STATE OF WISCONSIN



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 E. S. HAYES, M.D., EAU CLAIRE
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 C. A. HARPER, M.D., MADISON
 STATE HEALTH OFFICER

L. W. HUTCHCROFT, STATISTICIAN, MADISON

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
 BUREAU OF SANITARY ENGINEERING
 BUREAU OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASE
 BUREAU OF EDUCATION
 EMBALMING DEPARTMENT
 BARBER DEPARTMENT
 PLUMBING DEPARTMENT
 HOTEL AND RESTAURANT INSPECTION
 ANTITOXIN DEPARTMENT
 PASTEUR TREATMENT
 STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE AND
 BRANCH LABORATORIES

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
 MADISON

February 1, 1919.

Dr. J. F. Farr,
Eau Claire, Wis.,

Dear Doctor:

Find inclosed a report for Miss Elkerton. There is a space on the chart that I drew for you where ~~your~~ information may be added and I think it will add to the chart.

They have just completed the Vital Statistics record for the last quarter and I find something else that interests me and I thought it might interest you. As you know Eau Claire and Eau Claire County realized that they were going to have an epidemic and admitted that they had it and took every precaution of which they were advised to protect the people, while some other cities that we might mention claimed they did not have Influenza, that there was no danger and did not take due precautions and cast reflections on other cities.

Let us see how it worked out. Eau Claire County, total deaths ~~all~~ causes, 141, Pneumonia, 41, "Flu" 14. Chippewa County, total deaths ~~all~~ causes, 255, Pneumonia, 64, "Flu" 85. "Nuff said."

Yours very truly,

IFT/MM

I.F. THOMPSON.

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STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

MADISON February 20, 1919.

Dr. J. F. Farr,
Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Dear Dr. Farr:-

Have your favor of the 19th with the enclosure of a general report on the influenza epidemic in the city of Eau Claire for the months of October, November and December.

It is certainly gratifying to see the full cooperation of your citizens endeavoring to check as far as possible this dreaded malady that has confronted us, and the efforts put forth certainly show results. We congratulate you on the low death rate, as well as the unity of your citizens in furnishing food, nursing, housing and medical care to those afflicted. It conclusively shows what all public health men emphatically maintain that strict attention to health rules and regulations on the part of all the citizens of a community, especially during an epidemic, is the means of lessening very materially the amount of sickness and markedly reducing the death rate.

Thanking you for the information extended to this office, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

C. A. Harper
STATE HEALTH OFFICER.

CAH MB

A General Report on the "Flu" Epidemic
In Eau Claire, Wis.
Oct., Nov., Dec.
1918

Recognizing the rapid spread of influenza and its epidemic form, on Sept 25th 1918, Eau Claire Board of Health called a meeting and decided to include influenza among its reportable diseases and the physicians were notified to report all cases coming under their care.

On Oct 6th we advised the postponing of the Womens Club Convention which was to meet Oct 9th in this City and also formulated rules and regulations and general advise as a precautionary measure which were published in the City papers. The teachers convention which was to have been held Oct 18- and 19th was also advised to postpone.

On Oct 9th Dr. E.S. Hayes was advised by phone by Dr C.A. Harper of the State Board of Health at Madison that on Oct 11th the State Board of Health would request a general closing of the schools, churches, theaters, public gatherings etc, consequently on that date their order went into effect. Also, a request from Washington and Madison that all cases be reported by wire each night to Washington and Madison complied with.

Oct 15th, the Montgomery Hospital rented by the City and opened as a public quarantine hospital.

Oct 24th the lid was tightened still more by prohibiting sales, openings etc that would draw the people together.

Oct 28th Miss Dougherty representing the National Red Cross met with the local members of that body, the Board of Health and the members of the Council and gave an outline of the work that the Red Cross would be expected to do if the need arose.

Nov 6th the customers in the ice cream parlors and saloons were limited to a certain number and on Nov 16th, on account of there not being full co-operation and observance of the above ruling, these places were closed. The wearing of masks in places of business was requested.

Nov 23rd a mass meeting was called consisting of the City Council, Board of Health, Representatives of the different churches schools, business interests and laymen, at which meeting it was decided that with proper supervision and care it would be possible to open the schools and churches and to allow saloons to sell in packages only, not to be consumed on premises.

Dec 2nd the lid partially lifted and on Dec 8th due to an increase in the number of cases reported in this city and throughout the state the lid was again put on tighter than ever. A follow up system was organized and volunteers called for in all lines. All requests for assistance was directed to this office and the follow up workers worked from and under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health.

Those volunteering for this service were Mrs Alva Class, Mrs E.W. Brunt, Mrs L.V. Ritter, Miss Helen Lyman, Miss Marie Charles, Miss Katherine Bundy, Miss Mildred Cummings and Miss Margaret Howe. Those volunteering the use of their cars to promote and expedite this work were Rev. J.W. Irish, Rev W.W. Moore, Mr Neilson, Chas Felton, Chas Lee, Mrs A.W. Mchle, Miss Minnie Smith, Martin Obrien and E Cummings, and the following young men as chauffeurs, Emmett Frye, Russell Irish, Owen Lee and J Blystone.

Upon request the Red Cross and Womens Club furnished soup as needed to 70 families, in all some 800 qts, also furnishing night gowns, masks and other necessities.

The physicians in the city also volunteered their services without compensation when called upon thro this office for the indigent and those unable to procure such services and res-
 poned to all requests made.

A free clinic for innoculation was organized with its head quarters at the City Bldg under the supervision of Dr. J.V.R. Lyman, Mrs I. F. Thompson and Miss C Christensen, assisted by other doctors as needed and we consider that the innoculation thus administered had a distinct bearing on the virulance of the disease in many cases.

Number of calls made by the follow up workers	3100
Number of homes called on by these workers	700

Number of families served with soup	70
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Number of cases reported to this office	1914
Number of cases cared for at the City Hospt	241

This does not represent the number of cases in the city as many of the mild ones didnt employ a physician and were not reported and frequently owing to the stress and vast amount of work and ground to be covered subsequent cases occuring in a house hld after the first had been seen and reported, were not reported and it frequently happened that this office would have a report on the first one or two when there would be a totall of five or six, in consequence we estimate a totla of approximately 4000 cases during these months.

Total number of deaths during this period from influenza was 43 giving a death rate from this disease of a triffle over 1%. Comparing this with the results in some of the larger cities who lost as high as 158 per 1000 population and Eau Claire on a basis of 20000 population lost only 2 to the 1000 is a subject of congratulation.

We know of no city large or small afflicted with this disease during the epedemic with as small a death rate and we attribute it largely to the precautions taken and the almost universal full co-operation of the public with and to the suggestions and requests of the doctors in this community in the prevention and care of those afflicted.

We quote a paragraph of a letter received from a member of the State Board of Health. "As you know Eau Claire realized that they were going to have an epidemic and admitted that they had one and took every precaution that they were advised to protect the people while some other cities that we might mention claimed that they did not have the disease that there was no danger and did not take due precaution and cast reflections on others who did. Let us see how it worked out *****"

We do not quote the balance of this letter as in doing so it would be necessary to name localities, suffice to state that Eau Claire with a larger total of population had 50% less deaths.

The City Hospital under the supervision of Miss Kenny who was shortly afterwards called into Government service and was succeeded by Miss E Burr had a capacity of 60 patients and was full to capacity most of the time. The nursing force consisted of Mrs Dr. Guyton, Mrs Eline Johnson and Miss P Klumpen, registered nurses, assisted by student nurses from the Luther, teachers from the schools and for a short time Sisters from Sacred Heart Hospt.

Number cases cared for at the hospital 241
Number of deaths at the hospital 23

While the maintenance of the institution during this time meant a disbursement by the City of Eau Claire of approximately \$4000.00 when we consider life and welfare of its citizens and the results obtained, this ranks as one of the best investments ever made by this municipality and emphasizes the need of a proper quarantine hospital in this city.

The scarcity of the nurses made it impossible to cover the cases in their homes and by aggregating them in the hospital where one nurse could care for several, it made it possible to furnish competent nursing for the serious cases who otherwise would have been neglected. It also enabled the Board to remove an early case from the household and thereby protect the other members from infection.

The appointment of a special police, A. A. Snyder, to assist the Board of Health was of great value. His knowledge of ventilation etc rendered him well adapted for the work in hand and he was detailed for the checking up the ventilation systems in halls theaters, and public places and to prevent over crowding in business places and he proved industrious and efficient.

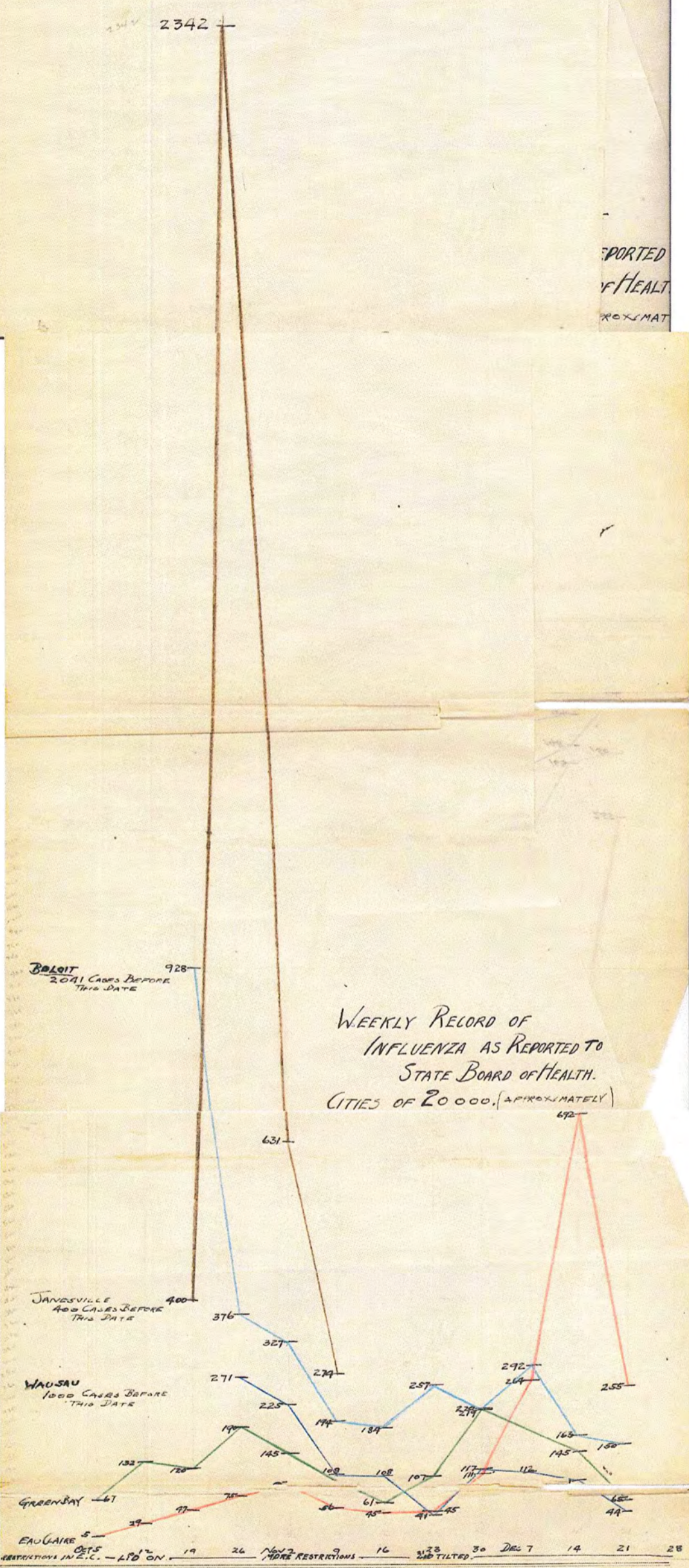
In conclusion, reviewing this very serious epidemic, we wish to express our appreciation of the hearty co-operation and support of the general public and those who devoted their energy and time without which our efforts would have been null.

Very Respectfully
Board of Health
City of Eau Claire

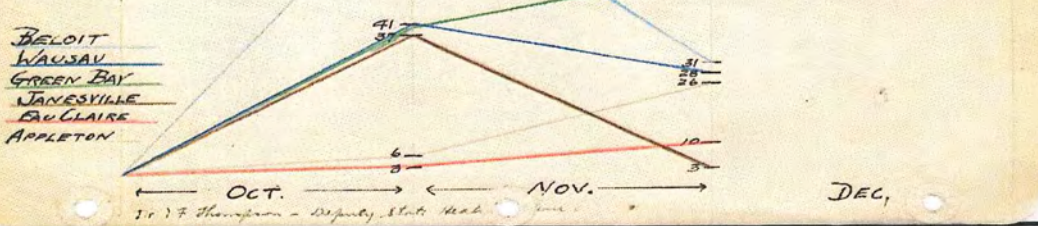
Fen 18-1919

REPORTED
OF HEALTH
APPROXIMATE

WEEKLY RECORD OF
INFLUENZA AS REPORTED TO
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.
CITIES OF 20000. (APPROXIMATELY)



DEATHS FROM
FLU-PNEUMONIA
1918



J. F. Thompson - Deputy State Health Officer