



Name _____

Class Period _____

Date _____

Beyond the Sources • *Public Health*

Using the information you gather on the web site, answer the following questions about the unit.

1. Records for the Board of Health were kept for a number of reasons. Why do you think keeping these records was important at the time?

What can they teach us now?

Why is it important today that your doctors keep a record of your visits?

2. Articles about issues important to the community are often found in newspapers and serve to motivate people to action. The article about unvaccinated residents is one example. What articles have you seen in your local newspaper that might motivate readers to take action?

How effective do you think these articles are?

As a historian, how would you evaluate these articles as sources?

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3. The report from the Board of Preventable Diseases shows how the state government was asked for help by a local doctor. What information might a state board member have that a local doctor might not?

What might be an advantage to having someone from “outside” the community come in to evaluate a situation like the smallpox epidemic in Red Wing?

Why might having an “outside source” provide his or her opinion NOT be a good thing?

4. How can the birth and death certificates of a person be useful sources for us as historians?

How accurate can we assume them to be?

What information could these provide that we might not be able to find anywhere else?
