

NEWS RELEASE

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Rice Memorial Hospital announces visitor restrictions for flu season

WILLMAR, Minnesota. (Oct. 20, 2009) – Rice Memorial Hospital announced today that there are new visitor restrictions in place to help protect our patients from influenza. Visiting is limited to close family only. Those visiting patient rooms will be asked to put on a mask and to wash their hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before entering the room and before leaving the room.

Those visiting the third floor of the hospital, which includes Maternity and Pediatrics, will be asked to stop at the Nurses' Desk before visiting the patient's room. Visiting is limited to close family only. Visitors will be asked to put on a mask and to wash their hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before entering the room and before leaving the room.

People coming to the hospital for medical care will be asked to put on a mask if they have any of the following flu-like symptoms: fever of 100° or higher; sore throat; cough; or body aches; or if they have had close contact to someone with a confirmed or suspected case of H1N1 flu.

“Our goal is to protect our patients from exposure to influenza,” says Barb Piasecki, RN, CIC, Infection Control. “These measures will help prevent exposure to an undiagnosed illness.”

For more information about H1N1 and seasonal flu, visit www.ricehospital.com/healthinfo.htm.

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