

Visitation Restrictions During Flu Season

The spread of seasonal and H1N1 influenza within the state of Georgia has prompted Piedmont Healthcare and its four hospitals, along with many other providers across the country, to take special measures to protect patients, staff and visitors. It is often difficult to tell who may be contagious because people may actually be infected and spread the virus before any symptoms develop. Due to this fact, Piedmont Healthcare has decided to implement revised visitation policies within all of its hospitals **beginning November 1, 2009**, and continuing throughout the flu season. We very much appreciate your cooperation in helping us protect the safety of all persons who enter our facilities.

Family members of all ages may be exempted from the following restrictions at the discretion of the hospital due to extenuating circumstances, such as end-of-life situations. However, persons with influenza-like illness will be required to wear a mask at all times while within the facility. Symptoms include cough, runny nose, fever, muscle ache, chills, headache, fatigue, or stomach issues like nausea or diarrhea.

On all Inpatient Units:

- Visitors with any symptoms of influenza-like illness will not be allowed.
- Visitors (including siblings) under the age of 18 are not allowed.
- Only two people at a time may visit an inpatient.
- Any visitor may be asked to wear a mask or other protective attire when visiting. Visitors who do not comply with instructions on wearing of such apparel will be asked to leave.

Adult Critical Care and Oncology Units:

- Visitors will be limited to spouses/significant others, parents or direct caregivers (son, daughter or other immediate family member responsible for care).

Women's Services (Labor & Delivery, Post-Partum, Nursery, NICU):

- Visitors will be limited to parents and grandparents (in the case of infants) and spouse/significant other/support person and grandparents only for laboring and post-partum women.

- Siblings under the age of 18 will not be allowed.
- Tours for expectant families will not be offered during the flu season to protect the women and new babies on the floors as well as the pregnant moms participating in the tour. A virtual OB tour will be provided on the hospital website.

Emergency Department:

- No one under the age of 18 will be allowed unless here to receive care.
- No pregnant women will be allowed unless here to receive care.
- Only one visitor per patient will be allowed within the Emergency Department.
- Additional persons accompanying a patient to the ED may be asked to wait in an alternate location.

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