



Dominican Hospital

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Communications & Marketing
(831) 462-7706

Spread of 2009 H1N1 Flu Prompts Dominican Hospital to Limit Visitors

In keeping with its mission to be good healthcare stewards to the community, Dominican Hospital is implementing the federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines for reducing 2009 H1N1 flu by limiting the number of people in the hospital setting.

To limit exposure and possible spread of H1N1 flu to its patients, visitors and staff, Dominican Hospital's visitor policy will prohibit visitors under age 16 as of Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009. This age limit includes all patient care areas of the hospital and rehabilitation services, including the birthing center and neonatal intensive care unit. Only two visitors age 16 or over are allowed per patient at a time.

Other regional medical centers have also taken this precaution to help ensure patient safety and patient needs for a healing environment.

"We have a family-centered approach to care at Dominican Hospital and realize that this restriction will impact families already dealing with the stress of having a loved one in the hospital," says Nanette Mickiewicz, MD, Hospital President. "We also realize it will mean younger siblings will not be able to see the new baby immediately. However, our duty to the community mandates that we do what we believe is best for our patients and for the public's health."

Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis in extreme circumstances.

The restricted visitor's policy will stay in effect at Dominican during peak flu season and will be lifted as soon as possible, although a further surge in flu cases could trigger further restrictions.

Hospital officials also urge people of all ages with influenza-like illness to stay home and call or see their primary care physician. Symptoms include fever of 100 degrees F or greater, cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, runny nose, vomiting and diarrhea.

Dominican Hospital
1555 Soquel Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95065
831.462.7700 direct
831.464.8813 fax

dominicanhospital.org