General Visitation Restrictions

As of 12/21/2009

Due to a decrease of H1N1 Influenza activity in the community, Penn State Hershey Medical Center is lifting restrictions for visitors under 18 years old. All other visitation restrictions remain the same. Because additional waves of novel H1N1 Influenza are possible, this policy is subject to change. Please help us prevent the spread of illness in our community by following these visitor guidelines and sharing them with family and friends who may need to visit the Medical Center.

1. Visitors are limited to those who are essential for the patient’s emotional well-being and care.
2. Everyone should perform hand hygiene when entering and leaving patient rooms, preferably with alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
3. **DO NOT VISIT** if you are experiencing respiratory or flu-like symptoms (body aches, fevers, sore throat, cough, runny nose). If under exceptional circumstances you **must** visit while ill, please
   a. Ask for a mask (e.g., at nurse’s station)--promptly put mask on to cover your nose and mouth.
   b. Use hand sanitizer upon arriving, immediately after using tissues, and after touching your face.
   c. If you cough or sneeze, do so into the crook of your elbow (do not cough or sneeze into your hands as this contaminates your hands).
   d. Distance yourself from others by at least six feet.
   e. Do not visit any other areas of the hospital (cafeteria, gift shop, play areas, other patient rooms).
4. **Additional restrictions** apply to Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital
   a. All patients must have no fever or respiratory symptoms (runny nose, cough, etc) for 24 hours (without the aid of fever reducers such as Tylenol) prior to using the playroom or teen lounge.
   b. Exceptions to the visitation restrictions will require the approval of the unit nursing manager or the house manager.