



SCOTTSDALE
HEALTHCARESM

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NEWS

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Visitor guidelines updated at Scottsdale Healthcare hospitals *ER 'Cough Stations' offer masks, tissues and hand sanitizer for flu patients*

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (Oct. 5, 2009) – Restrictions on visitors exhibiting signs of respiratory illness and restricting children under age 12 in certain areas are now in effect at all Scottsdale Healthcare facilities.

Beginning Monday, Oct. 5, visitor limitations will be in effect at Scottsdale Healthcare as follows:

- Children under 12 years of age may not visit patients in pediatric units.
- Visitors with signs of illness – cough, runny nose, fever, rash, etc. – cannot enter the Obstetrics Unit and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and should not visit other patient care areas of the hospital. During respiratory illness season, children visiting the OB and NICU areas are limited to well siblings only.
- Visitors of any age with signs of illness (cough, runny nose, fever, rash, etc) are discouraged from visiting any patient in any area of the hospital.
- Patients in the Scottsdale Healthcare Emergency Departments are encouraged to take advantage of "Cough Stations" which offer masks, tissues and hand sanitizer for patients who have flu symptoms to help prevent the spread of the influenza virus.



"Due to increasing levels of influenza in the community, it is necessary to implement limitations on visitors at all Scottsdale Healthcare facilities including Scottsdale Healthcare Shea Medical Center, Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn Medical Center and Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak Hospital," said Patty Gray, RN, infection prevention nurse.

"We will continue to assess the impact that influenza is having on our community and organization, and will adjust these guidelines as necessary to protect patients and staff, said Gray.

Flu prevention tips and additional information are available at www.shc.org. Scottsdale Healthcare ER wait times are updated every three minutes at www.fastERtimes.org.

Scottsdale Healthcare (www.shc.org) is the not-for-profit parent organization of Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak Hospital, Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn Medical Center, Scottsdale Healthcare Shea Medical Center, Virginia G. Piper Cancer Center, Scottsdale Clinical Research Institute, TGen Clinical Research Services at Scottsdale Healthcare, Scottsdale Healthcare Home Health Services, Scottsdale Healthcare Community Health Services, NOAH Clinics and Scottsdale Healthcare Foundation.

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