

Public Asked To Use Common Sense Guidelines When Visiting Hospitals

Green Lake County public health officials and health care systems are asking the public to help limit the spread of the flu virus and help protect hospital and nursing home patients by adhering to the following visitation guidelines:

- Families of patients should try to limit the number of visitors to a patient in the hospital and nursing homes to one or two people, especially if anyone else in the family is ill with flu symptoms. Visitors can have the flu and be contagious up to 24 hours before feeling ill themselves.
- Anyone who is ill, especially with respiratory symptoms, should not visit until 24 hours after symptoms are gone.

The public is also reminded that the follow precautions can be used to help prevent the spread of the flu:

- Wash your hands
- Don't touch your eyes or mouth
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or into your sleeve
- Stay home if you feel ill

Currently, due to the vaccine shortage, Green Lake County Department of Health and Human Services can only vaccinate those in the following high-risk categories:

- Pregnant Women
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- People who live with or care for children aged less than 6 months (eg. parents, siblings, and daycare providers)
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- Healthcare and emergency medical personnel who have direct contact with patients or infectious material
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- Children aged 6 months through 4 years (We currently have no vaccine for those age 6 months to 23 months and only Flumist nasal vaccine for those age 2-4). **We currently have NO H1N1 vaccine available for those 6 months through 2 years. We can currently only offer Flumist nasal spray for healthy children ages 2 through 4 years of age. This means they cannot have any underlying conditions including asthma or other conditions listed below.**
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- Children and adolescents aged 5-18 years who have chronic medical conditions that place them at higher risk of influenza-related complications. These conditions include chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, cognitive, neurologic/neuromuscular, hematological or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus), immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus); or receiving long-term aspirin therapy.

For more information about H1N1, contact your local health department, call 211 or visit the following sites for clinic updates: www.co.green-lake.wi.us . Green Lake County requires that you call for an appointment as vaccine supplies are very limited.