



459 Hume Street
Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 1W9
(705) 445-2550
www.cgmh.on.ca

Date: October 28, 2009

Media Release: For immediate release

VISITING RESTRICTIONS IMPLEMENTED AT THE G&M

Collingwood, ON Collingwood General & Marine Hospital (G&M) announced today that visiting restrictions are being implemented at the Hospital to reduce the spread of the H1N1 and seasonal flu virus among patients and staff.

The G&M has seen an increase in the number of patients presenting for care in the Emergency Department with Influenza Like Illness (ILI). Over the past three days, ILI patients have increased by more than seven percent per day. Family physicians' offices in the G&M service area are also seeing a similar increase in these patients.

Based on this upward trend, the G&M Outbreak Management Team (including physicians, nursing, pharmacy, lab, housekeeping and infection control staff and representation from Public Health) recommended the following visiting restrictions be implemented effective Thursday, October 29, 2009.

- No visitors under the age of 18 will be allowed.
- Visitors to Obstetrical patients will be limited to only **one** labour support person (both during and after delivery) who must be in good health.
- All other hospitalized patients will be allowed only one visitor at a time at the discretion of the primary nurse or healthcare provider.
- Visiting hours (1 to 8 pm daily) will be strictly enforced.
- Those coming to the G&M to visit or for diagnosis and treatment must perform hand sanitization upon entry and exit of Hospital.
- Patients coming to the Emergency Department with a cough and/or fever will be asked to put on a mask.

“Individuals 18 years of age and under are currently the population most prevalently presenting with H1N1. We are restricting this population from visiting and limiting visitors to one per patient to limit the exposure of our patients to this virus,” says Norah Holder, G&M, VP of Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer. “We believe this will greatly reduce the risk of our inpatient population coming in contact with visitors who have H1N1 though not yet exhibiting signs and symptoms.”

Outpatient services (including Diagnostic Imaging and Day Surgery) remain open at this time, however those who are ill for any reason are being asked to refrain from coming to the G&M for anything other than emergency care.

The G&M Hospital is in process of immunizing all staff, physicians and volunteers to protect against the H1N1 virus. H1N1 and seasonal flu shots are not available to the general public at the Hospital. Community members are encouraged to be vaccinated at their nearest local clinic and to practice diligent hand sanitization. Information on clinic locations and times is available at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

For more detailed information on your Hospital's H1N1 precautions, please visit www.cgmh.on.ca.

- 30 -

If you have any questions about this release please contact Linda Davis, President and CEO, Collingwood General and Marine Hospital at 444.8601, ext. 8200.

Collingwood General & Marine Hospital
459 Hume Street
Collingwood, Ontario
L9Y 1W9
www.cgmh.on.ca