

News From Scripps Health

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Scripps Health Announces New Flu Season Visitation Policy for Hospitals and Clinics

SAN DIEGO (Oct. 29, 2009) – In an effort protect its patients and staff and limit the spread of the flu, Scripps Health has revised its visitation policy during flu season.

Effective immediately, the following policies are now in place at all five Scripps hospital campuses:

- All visitors will be screened and those displaying influenza-like illness will be asked to leave.
- Children age 14 and younger are not permitted in the hospital unless they are receiving treatment or have a scheduled medical appointment.
- Hospitalized patients are restricted to no more than four visitors per day.
- Exceptions can and will be made in extreme cases.

“As cases of flu continue to increase in San Diego County and elsewhere, we felt it was important that we take appropriate measures to maintain a healthy environment for our patients and staff,” said Dr. Brent Eastman, Scripps Chief Medical Officer. “It is best that those who become ill with influenza stay home and limit their contact with others – particularly hospital patients. We appreciate the community’s understanding and support as we do all we can to limit the spread of the flu.”

The guidelines are slightly different for the 10 Scripps Clinic and nine Scripps Coastal Medical Center sites.

- Patients displaying influenza-like illness may be asked to wear a mask to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Patients are encouraged to only bring children who have medical appointments.

“While we understand that some parents have challenges finding childcare, limiting your child’s exposure to medical facilities will limit their exposure to the flu,” Dr. Eastman said.

For more information about the flu, visit www.scripps.org/flu or call 1-800-SCRIPPS.

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