



EMPLOYEE UPDATE

October 2, 2009

Important Flu Updates at WakeMed

New Limits to Visitation Across the System and Seasonal Flu Vaccines for Staff

As WakeMed continues to monitor seasonal flu and H1N1, we recently made several important decisions to help protect staff, physicians, volunteers, patients and visitors from the spread of illness.

New WakeMed Visitation Policy

Effective Monday, October 5, the following visitation rules will go into effect:

- No visitors under the age of 18 will be permitted.
- No visitors who are experiencing fever, vomiting, diarrhea, cold or flu-like symptoms will be permitted.
- Each patient should only have one to two visitors at a time.

Some exceptions will be made for extraordinary circumstances (i.e. critically-ill patients). Administration is leaving it up to the discretion of each individual nursing unit to handle these situations on a case-by-case basis. Nurses, please check in with your management team if you have any questions or concerns.

Signage regarding the new visitation policy will be visibly posted throughout all system locations by Monday morning, October 5. Additionally, **all WakeMed staff** should work together to help enforce the new visitation rules by respectfully approaching any visitor who does not comply and explaining that the restrictions have been created to help protect them, and our patients, from illness.

Seasonal Flu Vaccine for Physicians and Staff/Volunteers with Direct Patient Contact

Our remaining supply of flu vaccines is designated for employees, physicians and volunteers who have direct patient contact. This includes anyone who enters a patient room as part of their daily work responsibilities (i.e. to clinically care for the patient, to visit with the patient, to clean the patient's room, to serve the patient food, etc.). Members of this group can receive the flu shot as follows:

Occupational Health & Safety – Raleigh Campus

Monday through Friday

7 am to noon

12:30 to 4 pm

(continued)

Occupational Health & Safety – Cary Hospital

Monday through Friday

7 am to noon

12:20 to 3:30 pm

Weekend Clinical Staff

Some units have secured the vaccine for weekend clinical staff. Please check with your unit's peer vaccinator. Staff who do not have a peer vaccinator on their unit should go to 5C Medicine on the Raleigh Campus or to the clinical administrator at Cary Hospital.

Please note that this group has been targeted because they have a potentially higher risk of exposure to the flu than employees who do not have direct patient contact or who work away from a site where patients receive care.

Occupational Health & Safety may be able to provide other employees with the chance to receive a flu shot. Regular updates regarding the availability of the seasonal flu shot will be communicated over e-mail and on the WakeMedWeb.

Other Seasonal Flu Shot Provider Options and Co-Pay Reimbursement

Any employee who receives a seasonal flu shot at a location external to WakeMed should check with your insurance provider to confirm what Pharmacies or other clinical locations are in-network to avoid paying a co-pay for the vaccine.

For employees who are covered by WakeMed's BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) medical plan, you can go online to:

- <http://www.bcbsnc.com/apps/providers/search.do?searchType=Doctor>
- Then, click the plan of which you are a part (i.e. Blue Options PPO).
- Next, enter your home address Zip code.
- Then, in the "Specialty" box, find "Pharmacist (Flu & Other Limited Injections)."
- Finally, click "Find a Doctor Now."

The Web site will then provide a list of providers to whom you can go for a seasonal flu shot without paying a fee.

***For employees who paid a co-pay to receive a seasonal flu shot **prior to today's date**, you can turn your receipt in to your manager. Your manager will submit all receipts to Occupational Health & Safety so that you can be reimbursed for that fee. If your receipt is dated beyond today, you will not be reimbursed for a seasonal flu shot co-pay.*

Nursing Staff: Reminder about Patient Screening

Nursing staff, please continue to screen patients for the seasonal flu. If, at some point, the seasonal vaccine is no longer available for patients, please clearly document this using the appropriate language in the patient's Medical Record. Please also be sure to give the patient instructions on how and where they can get a vaccine outside of WakeMed.

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Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation as we respond to this year's flu season. With any questions or concerns, please e-mail hcc_systemcommand@wakemed.org.