

Visitation Policy During Influenza Season



Dear Patients, Families and Friends,

Yale-New Haven Hospital has adopted a special visitation policy during influenza season. This year we are taking extra precautions because of the seasonal influenza (regular flu) and the H1N1 influenza (swine flu).

Children, pregnant women, seniors and people with a weakened immune system (due to illness or cancer) are at a higher risk of developing serious problems if they get infected with these viruses. Even healthy people can get infected. People with H1N1 or seasonal flu can be contagious to others even before they start to show symptoms (see below). H1N1 influenza is not like a regular cold – it can be fatal. For this reason, Yale-New Haven Hospital is taking special measures to protect our patients, staff and visitors. Please follow the instructions below:

- Do not visit the hospital if you have any of these symptoms:
 - fever
 - cough
 - sneezing
 - runny nose
 - body pains
 - sore throat
- Children under 18 years old are not allowed to visit.
- When you arrive at the hospital and before and after entering a patient's room, wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand disinfectant like Purell®.
- You may need to wear masks, gowns or gloves when visiting. Please follow the instructions on the patient's unit.

Seasonal influenza and the H1N1 influenza are very contagious. They spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes near others. People can also become infected by touching surfaces or objects that are infected with the virus and then touching their mouth or nose.

If you, a family member or friend can not visit because they are ill or due to hospital restrictions, there are many ways to stay in touch with the patient:

- Wireless Internet access
- Telephone calls
- Text messaging
- Notes and cards

Thank you for helping us care for our patients!