



New Mexico
Hospital Association

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SPECIAL ADVISORY

H1N1 Flu Visitation Guidance for Hospitals

H1N1 Visitation Guidelines

Because of our strong commitment to patient safety and a high level of concern for the health of patients, the New Mexico Hospital Association asks the public to voluntarily refrain from visiting hospitalized family and friends, as well as those persons at the hospital for an outpatient procedure, if the visitor is sick with flu-like symptoms. NMHA

recommends restricted visitor access to the inpatient units and emergency room starting sometime between now and October 15. CDC data suggests that the action will reduce the risk of spreading H1N1 and seasonal flu to those at high risk of serious complications. These visitation guidelines will consist of the following and are suggested for everyone's safety:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm>

No visitors under 14.

No one under the age of 12 to 15 (depending the specific facility) is allowed in the hospital unless they are a patient.

No more than two visitors at a time.

This applies to both visitors in inpatient rooms and those accompanying patients to the emergency department. This will not apply to patients in end-of-life situations.

No sick visitors.

Visitors: If you have **fever, cough, sore throat**, fatigue, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, please stay home.

Patients: Ask for a mask.

Wear a mask if you have flu or cold symptoms.

Wash your hands. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.

Disclaimer This *H1N1 guideline* was prepared as a service to our members. The information provided is only intended to be a recommendation. It is not intended to take the place of either policy or regulations. We encourage our members to review the specific recommendations, guidance and other materials found at the NM Department of Health or the CDC.