

Subject/Title: VISITOR RESTRICTIONS	Reference: 01-001
	Effective Date: FROM: 21 Jul 09 TO: Until Further Notice
Authorized by: EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT	Revised: 06 Oct 2009

PURPOSE

To prevent transmission of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 by and to visitors.

DIRECTIVE

Transmission of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 is continuing in the community. As a result, visitors who are ill and enter health care sites and facilities may transmit infection to patients, residents, health care workers or other visitors. The following directions will reduce transmission to and from visitors while in health care facilities.

Ensure AHS posters outlining Influenza-like Illness (ILI) self-assessment information are posted at facility entrances, doors and other areas as appropriate.

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/files/Visitor-Alert-Stop-Poster.pdf>

To prevent transmission of influenza by visitors who are ill to others in health care sites and facilities:

1. Visitors who are ill should be discouraged from visiting while symptomatic.
2. Ensure AHS posters outlining directions to clean hands are posted at facility entrances, doors and other areas as appropriate.
3. Ensure alcohol-based hand rub for performing hand hygiene are readily available at facility entrances and other areas as appropriate.
4. If visitors do have to enter the facility when they are ill; they must clean their hands with alcohol-based hand rub and wear a surgical/procedure mask for the duration of their visit. They must restrict their visit to the patient or resident's room and not visit public areas within the facility (e.g. cafeteria, gathering spaces, etc.). Visits should be kept short.

To prevent infection transmission to visitors of patients with suspected or confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 on isolation with Contact and Modified Droplet Precautions:

1. Ensure that the following information is provided to visitors.
 - a) Visitors are limited to a maximum of 2 (**per patient bedside**) at any time;
 - b) Visitors are limited to only those who are close family or necessary for patient or resident well being or care;
 - c) If extenuating circumstances exist regarding visiting, contact the site administrator;
 - d) Visitors are to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (gloves, gown, surgical/procedure mask, eye protection) and are to follow the directions of the health care workers; and
 - e) Visitors are to clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub before putting on the PPE and after taking off the PPE.
2. **Ensure PPE is available for Visitors.**

Posters related to Visitors have been developed and can be found at the Alberta Health Services website.

This directive is subject to change as more information becomes available about Pandemic (H1N1) 2009.

APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to all Alberta Health Services staff, medical staff, volunteers, students and other persons acting on behalf of the Region.

CONTACT

For more information or clarification, please contact your facility's Infection Prevention and Control Professional or Designate.