



October 2009

Dear Educational Partners,

Flu season has arrived in Northeast Ohio. I want to update you on our efforts to prevent the spread of seasonal and H1N1 flu viruses. Our priority is to ensure the health and safety of all our patients, staff and visitors at Cleveland Clinic. To help prevent the spread of the seasonal flu and H1N1, Cleveland Clinic is limiting hospital visitation to adults 19 and older. Please do not bring visitors under the age of 19 to visit patients at any Cleveland Clinic hospital.

Over the past few months, Cleveland Clinic has had a team monitoring and planning for every aspect of the flu season including our staffing patterns, which will allow us to adjust our staffing plans as needed and continue to provide optimal care to our patients. Other steps the Cleveland Clinic health system has taken include: offering free seasonal flu and H1N1 vaccinations for employees and implementing an Employee Flu Absence hotline and policy to help manage absences due to employee illness, illness of a family member or a school/daycare closure that requires an employee to stay home with a child.

As an Educational Partner supporting Cleveland Clinic operations, your students and faculty members are an important part of our flu prevention efforts. There are many ways we can help prevent the spread of the flu this season:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Get Seasonal flu and H1N1 vaccines
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently
- Cover your sneeze or cough

Within our organization, we developed a contingency plan in case our employees get sick. We are employing tactics that you might use to help minimize the impact of flu including:

- Developing a plan for tracking student and faculty absences related to seasonal flu/H1N1
- Reviewing student and faculty policies around sick leave to ensure that faculty and students are encouraged to stay home when they are sick
- Provide additional student and faculty education on proper hand-washing hygiene, cough etiquette, and the use of personal protective equipment (PFE) as needed

In order to provide optimal clinical experiences students may be assigned to alternative clinical units.

Your cooperation on flu prevention will help minimize the impact to our most important resource –our people.

Sincerely,

Joan M. Kavanagh, MSN, RN  
Associate Chief Nursing Officer  
Clinical Education/Professional Development  
Cleveland Clinic Health System

Learn more about Cleveland Clinic's flu prevention and vaccination information at [www.clevelandclinic.org/flu](http://www.clevelandclinic.org/flu). For more information about the seasonal and H1N1 flu, visit [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) or [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu)

# Visitors Limited to Adults at Cleveland Clinic Hospitals\*

To help prevent the spread of seasonal flu and H1N1, hospital visitation is limited to:

- adults 19 and older who are healthy
  - no fever, runny nose or cough in the past 24 hours
- parents, guardians and grandparents of patients in the neonatal and pediatric ICUs (NICU and PICU)

**Please do not bring visitors under the age of 19 to visit patients at any Cleveland Clinic hospital.**

We're taking these important measures to help ensure the safety of our patients, visitors and employees. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this unique flu season.

\*Visiting limitations include all areas of Cleveland Clinic's main campus including Children's Hospital; Children's Hospital Shaker Campus; Euclid, Fairview, Hillcrest, Huron, Lakewood, Lutheran, Marymount, Medina and South Pointe hospitals, and Ashtabula County Medical Center