



## NEWS RELEASE

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## **AnMed Health asks visitation restrictions for duration of flu season**

**NOTE to Editors: Please be careful with use of the word “visit.” When we asked for voluntary visitor restrictions in 2016, some readers and viewers interpreted it to mean medical visits. We are not asking people who need medical care to stay away from the hospital.**

*(Anderson, S.C. – Jan. 9, 2018)* –AnMed Health is requesting that, for the health of our patients and community, all visitors voluntarily stay away from the hospital. The Medical Center also is urging the public to bring only emergency medical needs to the Emergency Department.

The Emergency Department staff is working with an unusually high number patients with flu or gastrointestinal distress.

AnMed Health infection prevention experts urge visitors to take precautions to avoid spreading influenza and other respiratory illnesses. Precautions to prevent spread of gastrointestinal distress are similar: keep hands washed and limit contact with other people.

Precautions also include not exposing patients to visitors who are sick, or visitors to sick patients.

- **Please limit visitors to two adults per patient at any time.** Limiting the number of visitors per patient will help control the spread of the illness.
- **Please do not bring children on hospital visits.** Children are more likely to get sick and spread viruses.
- **Please wash your hands frequently.** Look for hand-washing stations around the hospital, and use them often. Please make sure to clean your hands when entering and

leaving the hospital either by washing with soap or rubbing your hands together with hand sanitizer.

- **Please do not visit the hospital if you have symptoms of the flu or gastrointestinal illness.** Signs of the flu include fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose or sore throat. Signs of gastrointestinal distress include vomiting and diarrhea.
- **If you haven't already, get the flu vaccine.** Getting the simple shot can help increase your chances of staying healthy and avoid getting others sick.
- **Keep your hands washed at all times.**

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that between 5 percent and 20 percent of U.S. residents get the flu, and it is estimated that more than 200,000 people are hospitalized on average for flu-related complications each year.

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