



## NEWS ALERT

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### **AnMed Health urges public to limit visiting patients for duration of flu season**

*(Anderson, S.C. – Jan. 16, 2019)* – AnMed Health infection prevention experts are urging visitors to take precautions to avoid spreading the flu and other respiratory illnesses. As a result, AnMed Health is requesting that all visitors voluntarily stay away from the hospital for the health of our patients and community. The Medical Center also is advising the public to only come to the Emergency Department (ED) if there is an emergency. The ED staff is working with an unusually high number of patients with the flu.

For non-emergencies, patients can visit AnMed Health's CareConnect at 600 N. Fant Street in Anderson and AnMed Health-Clemson, located at 885 Tiger Boulevard/U.S. Highway 123 in Clemson. Adults can receive a diagnosis and treatment plan right in their inbox with an E-Visit. They can go to [AnMedHealth.org/E-Visits](http://AnMedHealth.org/E-Visits), and either sign into their MyChart account or first-time users can create an account.

#### **Additional precautions:**

- **Please limit visits to essential family only.** All non-family and children are asked to stay away. 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 cleanse hands frequently.** Look for hand sanitizing dispensers 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 a sore throat.
- **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.

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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