

**NEWS RELEASE**

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

***NOTE to Editors: Please be careful with the use of the word “visit.” In the past, when we asked for voluntary visitor restrictions, 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. – Dec. 19, 2019) – 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 (ED). The ED and CareConnect staff is working with an unusually high number of patients with flu and respiratory illness. AnMed Health infection prevention experts urge visitors to take precautions to avoid spreading influenza and other respiratory illnesses. Precautions also include not exposing patients to visitors who are sick or visitors to ill 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.** 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.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that between 5% - 20% of U.S. residents get the flu. It is estimated that more than 200,000 people are hospitalized on average for flu-related complications each year. A trip to the physician's office or urgent care for flu symptoms can be avoided with AnMed Health's E-Visits. For \$20, if you are at least 18 years of age, you can either use an existing MyChart account or create one to receive a diagnosis and treatment plan in the inbox of a computer or mobile device.