

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 4, 2018

Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic Implementing Visitor Restrictions

Madelia, Minn. – Due to the large number of influenza cases and the widespread reporting of people with flu-like symptoms, the staff at the Madelia Community Hospital & Clinics has implemented visitor restrictions in our hospital effective immediately. Visitation will be restricted as follows:

- Only immediate family members permitted (Patient spouse or significant other, parent, sibling of child)
- No children under the age of 12
- Only two visitors per patient at a time
- No one who is ill (i.e. Symptoms of influenza including fever or chills, muscle or body aches, sore throat, cough, stuffy nose, headache and fatigue) will be permitted to visit.

These restrictions apply to all patients in all areas of the hospitals, including staff members. There are certain circumstances in which we will make a “compassionate exception” to these restrictions. These will be made on a case-by-case basis.

The safety and security of our patients, visitors and staff is our highest priority. We would appreciate your assistance with enforcement of these restrictions and apologize for any inconvenience they may cause. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

It is not too late to receive a flu shot. “We urge everyone to get a flu vaccine now if you have not done so already this season,” says Dr. Owadini Bandara, family medicine physician at Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic. Vaccination is especially important for children, adults 65 and older, pregnant women and people with asthma, diabetes and other long-term conditions who are at high risk from flu complications. Supplies of the flu vaccine are plentiful and readily available. Anyone interested in a flu shot can stop by or call Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic at 507-642-3255.

Officials remind the public, in addition to getting the seasonal flu vaccine, there are other steps everyone can take to prevent contracting and spreading the flu. They include:

- Cover your cough.

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with warm water and soap, or use an alcohol-based sanitizer often.
- If you are not feeling well, stay home.
- If your children are ill, keep them at home.

The seasonal flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza (flu) viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The signs and symptoms of the seasonal flu include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue.

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About Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic

Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic is an independent, nonprofit facility staffed by a team of physicians and medical professionals that is profoundly committed to providing health care of the highest standards to Madelia and surrounding communities. As a 25-bed acute care hospital, we offer all the primary health services, such as medical/surgical, pediatric, emergency care and more. In 2011, we expanded our services to include a family medical clinic, which provides adolescent health, geriatric health, men's health, newborn health, pediatric health, preventative medicine and women's health. Over the years, we have proactively responded to the changing demands within the health care system, which has ensured our ability to deliver up-to-date medical services, purchase advanced medical equipment, and provide complete and compassionate care to all who enter our facility.