



MORTON HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER  
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**Press Release: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Morton Hospital to Limit Visitor Access**

**TAUNTON, MA – November 4, 2009** – Morton Hospital and Medical Center announced today that it will limit visitor access in an effort to prevent the spread of the H1N1 flu virus. Under the new policy, the Hospital will restrict visitation from any persons under the age of 18, including siblings and children of patients. The recent rise in H1N1 cases, as well as concerns voiced by local and national health officials, prompted the policy change, which will be effective immediately.

These measures will be implemented to protect patients and visitors who are most at risk, and those who are caring for someone who is at risk. This includes: pregnant women; new mothers, fathers and guardians; household members and caregivers of infants who are less than 6 months old; children 6 months to 24 years of age; and persons age 25 to 64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

Although the Hospital understands that the changes may cause inconveniences or disappointment among patient families, the new regulations are necessary in order to maintain the health of patients, visitors and staff, and to prevent the further spread of the virus throughout the community.

In addition to updating its visitation policy, Morton Hospital is taking several other precautionary measures, including asking anyone who is ill not to visit. Any patient with a respiratory illness who comes to the Emergency Department, or to the laboratory for tests, is required to wear a mask and disinfect their hands with antibacterial hand sanitizer. The Hospital is equipped with sanitizer dispensers located throughout public areas and patient floors, and urges anyone who is visiting to sanitize hands prior to entering a patient room, as well as before leaving.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these policy changes, please contact (508) 828-7195.

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