NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

From: Galion Community Hospital
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GCH Limits Visitation

GALION- Galion Community Hospital has started to see an increase of calls coming through the Emergency Department and physician offices describing flu-like symptoms. Therefore, GCH is asking family members visiting with children under the age of 12, do not bring children into the hospital, they will not be allowed unless they are seeking medical attention.

"We are proactively taking precautions in protecting our community members with the request to leave children at home. With community participation, risks can be minimized," reminded Wittibschlager.

"We are also asking any visitors who may be experiencing flu-like symptoms such as sore throat, sneezing, chills and fever to seek medical attention prior to visiting patients," clarified Angie Wittibschlager, R.N., Infection Control Coordinator for the facility.

Wittibschlager reports that GCH has received their first shipment of the nasal-spray vaccine and will follow ODH administration recommendations in giving the vaccine to direct healthcare providers.

The H1N1 Vaccine has been shipped in limited supply to several hospitals in Ohio, including Galion Community Hospital, from the Ohio Department of Health. Following

the guidelines established by ODH, the hospital has begun the task of inoculating health care providers. Infections among health care workers can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients. In addition, increased absenteeism among health care professionals could reduce the health care system capacity.

Dr. Francis Blais, Board Certified in Infection Diseases, agrees with Wittibschlager that indications should be recognized and urges action, “In addition to the other symptoms, don’t forget about body aches. They are also a sign to call your primary care physician.”

For more information, visit the hospital’s website at www.galionhospital.org

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