Southeast Georgia Health System Urges Caution When Visiting Patients During Influenza Season and Coronavirus Outbreak

BRUNSWICK, Georgia: March 10, 2020 – The health and safety of patients, visitors and team members is a top priority for Southeast Georgia Health System. While no cases of coronavirus have been identified in southeast Georgia to date, in an effort to prepare for possible cases in our region and to minimize the spread of contagious illnesses such as the flu or coronavirus, Health System officials are implementing visitor restrictions, effective immediately.

Visitor restrictions include:

Individuals experiencing cold or flu like symptoms, including fever, cough, or shortness of breath, should NOT visit patients in the hospitals or Senior Care Centers.
No more than two healthy visitors at a time are permitted to visit an inpatient or resident.
Only one visitor is permitted to accompany an Emergency Care Center (ECC) patient in the treatment area.
Children age 12 or younger are restricted from visiting.

Visitors who are not experiencing symptoms are welcome to visit their loved ones. Visitors should wash their hands frequently while in the hospital or use the hand sanitizers available in each patient’s room.

Preventing the Spread of Illness
The Health System encourages everyone to be proactive and to use appropriate methods to prevent the spread of contagious illnesses. Prevention methods include:

- Wash hands with soap and water frequently.
- Avoid touching your face (mouth, nose, eyes).
- Stay home if you are sick until the illness is resolved.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, dispose of it immediately and wash hands.
- Wipe down frequently touched surfaces, including door knobs, computers, cell phones, light switches.
- Avoid shaking hands, including fist-bumps, and hugs.
- Stay five to six feet away from others who are coughing or ill.

If You Are Experiencing Symptoms
If someone is experiencing flu-like or coronavirus symptoms they can help prevent spreading it to loved ones and the community by staying home unless they are seeking medical care. Individuals should first call their health care provider’s office for recommendations on where to seek care, including instructions to prevent the spread of illness to others.
For further information regarding Southeast Georgia Health System’s infection control prevention, please visit sghs.org. For more information regarding the coronavirus, its spread, prevention and travel information, please refer to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at cdc.gov.

ABOUT SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM
Southeast Georgia Health System is a not-for-profit health system comprised of two acute care hospitals, two long term care facilities, two comprehensive Cancer Care Centers and multiple specialty care centers, including orthopaedic and spine care, joint replacement, breast care, maternity, outpatient rehabilitation, sleep management and wound care. The Brunswick Campus Cancer Care Center is accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and offers the only CyberKnife® M6 with MLC technology in Georgia. Additionally, the Southeast Georgia Physician Associates medical group includes more than 140 providers working in 20 different medical specialties at more than 50 locations. The Health System is part of Coastal Community Health, a regional affiliation between Baptist Health and Southeast Georgia Health System forming a highly integrated hospital network focused on significant initiatives designed to enhance the quality and value of care provided to our contiguous communities. For more information, visit sghs.org.

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