



May 7, 2009
4:45 p.m. CT

Dear Parents,

You are probably aware that there is a new influenza (flu) virus circulating throughout the United States, called the H1N1. You may see the virus also called, Swine-Origin Influenza Virus or S-OIV, too. We have identified multiple cases so far in children cared for at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics. All have recovered. Likely there will be multiple cases in the community, and we will begin to see children admitted to our hospital in the coming weeks.

This virus causes a typical flu-like illness (such as, fever, aches, runny nose, cough, and sore throat). Because it is a new virus which has never previously been identified, we likely will be seeing community spread of infection. We are taking special precautions for our patients and healthcare providers. These precautions include:

- Careful screening and special testing for ill children who require admission to the hospital or for those children who meet high-risk categories (check with your doctor if you think your child has a high-risk condition)
- Use of special isolation procedures for ill children
- Monitoring of our hospital staff for any illness
- Use of antiviral medicines only for children admitted to the hospital and those at risk for flu complications

At this point you can contact your doctor if your child has fever and respiratory symptoms. For children with mild disease, no testing or antiviral treatment (Tamiflu) is necessary. You can check with your doctor to find out what else you can do at home for your child. Don't forget, to practice good handwashing, cover your cough and if your child is sick, keep them at home and avoid group contact for seven days.

You can check our website at www.childrensmercy.org for more information. If your child needs testing or treatment, we will give you more information.

Sincerely,
The Staff of Children's Mercy