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Washington County
Hospital and Clinics

Press Release

WCHC Staff prepares for H1N1

Washington County Hospital and Clinics is boosting their supplies and putting plans in place in case of an H1N1 outbreak. At WCHC Lorraine Hardt, Infection Control and Employee Health Nurse, is helping to prepare for the onset of flu season. "It's pretty interesting to try to plan for something when you're not sure what's going to happen with it," said Hardt. "However it is something we want to take very seriously and try to be prepared for." "We're taking a look at our medication stock and our personal protection stock. We're educating staff," she said.

At the hospital patients or visitors with respiratory symptoms are asked to sanitize their hands and put on a mask when entering the building to help stop the spread of germs. At each hospital entrance, kiosks are filled with hand sanitizers, masks, tissues and educational information.

The hospital is also making preparations for the potential of extra patient care space.

A large emphasis is being placed on keeping the staff healthy. The hospital is boosting their supply of medical gloves and masks for staff. They have also placed a big emphasis to the staff and volunteers on the importance of getting their flu shots and stressing the importance to stay home if they are ill.

"It doesn't seem to be any worse than the traditional flu we see every year, so from that standpoint, it's somewhat comforting," she said.

"People shouldn't panic," said Hardt. "If they're having the symptoms of routine flu, treat it as the flu. It's when people start having respiratory difficulties and are dwindling or not getting better, that's when they need to seek medical treatment," said Hardt.

Doctors also advise to keep washing your hands to stay healthy. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
