

H1N1

**Peggy Thompson, RN, BSN, CIC,
Director, Infection Prevention**

H1N1 influenza is a new flu virus that began affecting people in Mexico and the US in March and April of this year, the first case being confirmed on April 15th. By April 26 the US had declared a public health emergency and by June 19th all 50 states in the US had reported H1N1 infections as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Fortunately most people have recovered from this virus without requiring medical treatment; however, as of 8/21/09 the US has reported 522 deaths and 7983 hospitalizations to date due to H1N1. Symptoms have ranged from fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue to nausea, vomiting, and or diarrhea. Children and young adults are at a disproportionate risk for infection and hospitalization.

In response to the potential threat of novel influenza, TGH developed a Pandemic Flu Plan over a year ago. A multidisciplinary task force began meeting in March to review the plan and revise as needed. Multiple departments reviewed their inventory of supplies and ordered additional supplies as indicated by the Pandemic Plan. Antiviral medication, gowns, gloves, masks, and respiratory therapy supplies are among the priority items of necessity during an influenza pandemic. In addition to surgical masks, N-95 respirators and eye protection supplies were increased and positive air purifying respirators (PAPR) were ordered for those cases of high risk exposure to respiratory secretions, e.g. intubation, sputum induction, open airway suctioning or CPR. PAPR's may be useful in situations where an employee fails fit testing with the N-95 respirator or in a multiple-patient isolation area.

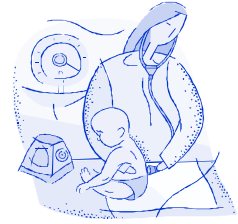
Signage has been posted at critical entry points to the hospital, reminding visitors not to visit the hospital if they are having any symptoms of influenza like illness. Patients are being screened for symptoms of influenza in admitting and labor and delivery entrances to facilitate prompt isolation and placement of symptomatic patients. A policy has been written to guide visitation of influenza patients.

A Flu Hotline has been established for healthcare workers who have questions about their own symptoms or how long they should stay away from work if they have been diagnosed with influenza. The Flu Hotline is also triaging phone calls from admitting when a patient is coming in for elective outpatient testing that may be postponed if the patient has flu symptoms. TGH employees and medical staff with influenza symptoms may receive flu testing (PCR) through TGH Employee Health Services.

Tampa General has taken a very proactive stance during this novel influenza pandemic, building on its strengths to do this. We have a strong Emergency Room staff and physicians who have done an outstanding job of isolating these patients and treating them rapidly. We have in house laboratory testing that has yielded PCR testing that is highly sensitive and provides a timely diagnosis for this novel influenza strain. Employee Health Services and Poison Control have set up the Flu Hotline to triage employees and patients. Information Systems has created automatic flags for notifica-

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Radiation Exposure In Pediatric Population



An open letter to TGH physicians:

Dear colleagues,

As all of you know, the utilization of radiologic procedures has skyrocketed in recent years. With the drastic increase in examinations has come increased concern over radiation exposure. This is especially true in our pediatric population. Recently, the Society for Pediatric Radiology has begun the Image Gently Campaign. This is a web-based initiative to encourage minimized radiation exposure in children. I would encourage all of you to visit the Image Gently website at www.imagegently.org.

In addition to shielding techniques we use in radiology, there are also a few ways that you as ordering physicians can help to reduce exposure. Most CT scans can be ordered either with contrast or without contrast. Rarely is it necessary to obtain the scan with and without contrast, which doubles the radiation exposure to the patient. To be more specific, CT of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis is almost always most appropriately performed just with contrast. The one common exception to this would be CT for renal calculi which can be performed just without contrast. CT of the brain can be performed without contrast only. Of course, there will always be exceptions, and if you ever have a question as to the most appropriate order, we are happy to assist at any time.

In the pediatric population, we should always consider using ultrasound or MRI, if appropriate, before CT as neither of these modalities is associated with ionizing radiation exposure.

Another way to reduce exposure is by not repeating scans on transfer patients. Many times when patients are transferred they have had CT examinations at the previous hospital. These CDs can be submitted to the radiology file room after an order for "Read Outside Film", and usually can be uploaded onto our PACS system.

Thank you all for allowing us to participate in the care of your young patients. I hope that we can continue to do so as safely as possible.

Warmest Regards,
David Germain M.D.
Claude Guidi M.D.

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tion of Infection Preventionists of influenza testing orders and results. We have pooled our resources, including Lab, Employee Health and Infection Prevention to assure timely and appropriate management to prevent any transmission to our patients, health-care workers, and visitors. This pandemic has put a significant strain on resources but as always, the TGH team has stepped up to the challenge. This situation promises to intensify as we approach flu season and young people are back in school.

For up to date information on how influenza patients are being managed or current employee related information, a Flu page has been added to the TGH portal. (See Employee Portal icon on the TGH computers) Links are available to the CDC website through this portal. Forms specific to influenza information e.g. homegoing instructions for influenza patients are also found on this page. The information is updated as state and national guidelines are revised.



**TGH MEDICAL STAFF
2009 ANNUAL MEETING**



WHEN: Wednesday, September 16, 2009

WHERE: Westin Tampa Harbour Island Hotel

Business Meeting begins at 5:30 PM:

Annual Updates

Vote on Proposed Bylaws Changes

Guest Speaker: Thom Mayer, MD, FACEP, FAAP

CME Credit Available

NOTE: There will be no CME courses offered during the day. Mandatory licensure courses will be available through an online subscription service in the near future.

REQUEST

**Medical Staff Services (MSS) is currently verifying
email addresses.**

**Please come to MSS and update your email address
if you did not receive the email regarding the**

ANNUAL MEETING

From Rita St. Clair.

Tampa General Hospital
Quality Improvement Department

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.TGH.ORG

TGH Welcomes our new Physicians

The physicians below were added to TGH staff July 31st

John A. Ballert, MD	Otolaryngology
David A. Decker, MD	Neurology
Zubair J. Farooqui, MD	Internal Medicine
Javier H. Gonzalea, MD	Pediatrics
Jeremy P. Hogan, MD	Orthopaedic Surgery
Todd R. Kumm, MD	Radiology & Nuclear Medicine
Brian Madow, MD	Ophthalmology
Eugeniu V. Muntean, MD	Neurology
Chukwuka C. Okafor, MD	Orthopaedic Surgery
Heidi A. Pierson, MD	General Surgery
Amit Razdan, MD	Psychiatry
Vashun A. Rodriguez, MD	Emergency Medicine
Raghavendra R. Vijayanagar, MD	Thoracic & C. V. Surgery
Lori B. Wagner, DO	Family Practice
Anish B. Zachariah, MD	Emergency Medicine

KUDOS TO OUR PHYSICIANS!

Congratulations to the following physicians who were recognized by their patients in the form of personal letters to TGH leadership.

Dr. Michel Murr, Dr. Mark Frankle, Dr. Dan Riggs,
Dr. Valerie Panzarino, Dr. Alfonso Campos, Dr. Mark Kayton, Dr. Daksha Patel,
Dr. Richaed Weibley, Dr. John Haffner & Joshua Wolf, CRNA



This newsletter is produced by Tampa General Hospital's Quality Improvement Department. All comments, responses or suggestions are welcome and should be directed to:

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