



Press Release: Infection Control week at hospital

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Infection Control Week at CH-F helps spread awareness

During Infection Prevention Week, October 18-24, Community Hospital-Fairfax is recognizing the many ways its employees, patients, visitors and community can protect themselves from infection and the flu.

Community education was a large part of the hospital's efforts in spreading the word about practicing healthy habits during flu season. A flyer featuring step-by-step instructions for effective, proper hand-washing techniques was sent to businesses in Atchison and Holt Counties. A display board stands in front of the hospital's cafeteria, explaining the various steps each department takes every day to ensure the hospital is helping to stop the spread of flu in the community. It also shows a map of the hospital, highlighting the various places where sinks and alcohol-based hand sanitizers are available.

Although hand washing is the most recognized way to prevent the spread of germs, hospital Chief Operating Officer Rhonda Evans says there are more ways the hospital helps to prevent infection.

"Our facilities do many things on a daily basis to control infection. Environmental cleanliness, food safety practices, infectious waste disposal and monitoring for potential healthcare acquired infections are more ways that we work to maintain a low infection rate and protect our patients and staff," Evans explained.

The hospital's Infection Control Committee is working with employees to ensure the hospital is taking all possible steps to stop the spread of flu and infections. These steps include limiting the number of toys, magazines and other reading materials in the waiting rooms, as well as frequently sanitizing the chairs and door handles in the Emergency Room waiting area.

Community Hospital-Fairfax encourages those who are sick to phone or send cards to loved ones staying in the hospital, eliminating the chance of spreading infection inside the hospital.

Visit Community Hospital-Fairfax's webpage, www.FairfaxMed.com, for links to the Center of Disease Control's "The Flu & You" webpage, as well as a video demonstrating proper hand washing techniques and information about taking care of those who are sick.