

October 17, 2016

RVH protects against flu for safety of patients

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) staff, physicians, volunteers and students are once again being offered their influenza immunization without leaving the health centre.

“Every year at this time, we can expect two things – winter and flu season – and we are prepared for both,” says Janice Skot, president and CEO, RVH. “We encourage staff, physicians, volunteers and students to receive their flu shot as part of RVH’s commitment to safety. Patients and their safety are our highest priority and we must do what we can – like being immunized against the flu - to protect them. Many patients are already health compromised so getting the flu can make them extremely ill, and in some cases, even cause death.”

Flu shots are not mandatory at RVH and staff, physicians, volunteers and students have a choice of how they want to protect their patients and themselves.

“We want TEAM RVH – our staff, physicians, volunteers and students – to consider both patient safety and occupational health in their decision to receive the flu shot,” says Corinne Nesbitt, manager, Occupational Health and Safety, RVH. “Providing the highest quality patient care, means we have the appropriate levels of staff working throughout the coming months when we usually see an influx in patients with flu-like symptoms. And a healthy workplace means being immunized to protect our colleagues so they’re not home sick with the flu – they are here at RVH meeting our patient’s needs and providing exceptional care.”

As part of RVH’s commitment to making patient safety a priority, throughout the flu season all patients will be screened for influenza upon arrival at RVH’s Emergency department and other patient registration areas. Anyone exhibiting flu-like symptoms, which include sudden onset of fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle and joint pain and headache, will be required to put on a mask and, whenever possible, will be isolated from other patients.

Cutline: Members of TEAM RVH, including senior leaders, staff, volunteers and physicians, lined up to receive their flu shots from Occupational Health and Safety at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH). RVH’s annual influenza immunization campaign kicked off on October 17 and runs until November 6, 2016. In addition to providing immunizations at RVH’s Simcoe entrance for staff, physicians, volunteers and students, the Occupational Health and Safety team will also travel to various departments around the health centre to give immunizations, ensuring the safety of RVH patients is the top priority.

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About RVH:

RVH is a regional health centre in Barrie, Ontario, located 80 kilometres north of Toronto. As the largest hospital in the region of Simcoe Muskoka, RVH’s team of over 350 physicians, 2,500 employees and 850 volunteers provides exceptional care and specialty services to almost half a million residents, including cancer care, stroke services, orthopedics, intensive care, mental health and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering safe, high quality care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit www.rvh.on.ca