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RVH ramps up against flu

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) is once again making influenza immunization more convenient for staff, physicians, volunteers and students by offering the flu shot within the workplace.

“Safety is our promise and we take it very seriously at RVH,” says Janice Skot, president and CEO, RVH. “Many of our patients are health-compromised and it is our responsibility to protect them. Getting the flu can make them extremely ill, and in some cases, even cause death. We want our patients to be safe so if there are steps we can take to ensure this, we should take them.”

Within the first 10 days of offering immunizations this fall, more than 1,200 staff, physicians, volunteers and students received their flu shots. Staff, physicians, volunteers and students have a choice of how they want to protect their patients and themselves, and immunization is encouraged as one of the best protections against influenza.

“The flu can be a very serious illness for many of our patients,” says David Coward, vice president and chief human resources officer, RVH. “In addition to protecting our patients from the flu, we need to have the appropriate levels of staff working to provide safe, high-quality healthcare throughout the coming flu season. Protecting our colleagues from the flu means staff and physicians are not home sick. 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 top priority, in the coming months, all patients will be screened for influenza upon arrival at RVH’s Emergency department or 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: Staff, physicians, volunteers and students are receiving their flu shot at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) as part of the health centre’s commitment to patient safety during the upcoming flu season. Janice Skot (left), RVH’s president and CEO, received her flu shot from Registered Practical Nurse Tabatha Gibbons. More than 1,200 other RVH team members received their flu shots during the first 10 days of the health centre’s annual immunization campaign.

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For more Information:

Suzanne Legue
Chief Communications Officer
705-728-9090 ext. 41600

Jennifer Moore
Corporate Communications
705-728-9090 ext. 41618

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, orthopaedics, intensive care, mental health and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering high-quality, safe care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit www.rvh.on.ca