



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Increase of Respiratory Illnesses Cause Temporary Visitation Restrictions at Phoenix Children's Hospital beginning Saturday, September 26, 2009**

PHOENIX, (September 24, 2009) – If you are visiting a child in the hospital, please be aware that children must be at least 12 years old to visit Phoenix Children's Hospital patients and all visitors must be free from respiratory symptoms. Restrictions will go into effect at 5 a.m. on Saturday, September 26, 2009.

Visitation restrictions apply to all patient care areas. These restrictions only apply to visitors, not PCH patients presenting in the Emergency Department or patients seeking medical care. At the Phoenix Children's neonatal unit operated at Banner Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center restrictions are for children age 13 and under.

"Even simple colds can be life-threatening for hospitalized children who may have other serious health problems," said Scott Ostdiek, MD, Medical Director of the Infection Control Department at Phoenix Children's Hospital. "Young children are not as careful with hand-washing and other measures that help prevent the spread of infections," he added.

Symptoms of respiratory virus may include fever, coughing, labored breathing, wheezing and nasal congestion. "This year we are implementing these restrictions earlier because of the influenza outbreak and fevers can be quite high with influenza," noted Dr. Ostdiek. Respiratory Viruses are the leading cause of lower respiratory tract disease in young children and the leading cause of death among low-birth-weight babies.

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's leader in pediatric care and is one of the 10 largest free-standing children's hospitals in the nation. The outstanding clinical expertise, as well as high patient volume, and an unwavering commitment to caring only for children, all contribute to Children's leadership position. For information about Phoenix Children's, visit the Hospital's award-winning website at [www.phoenixchildrens.com](http://www.phoenixchildrens.com).