



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Jane Walton
(602) 546-5871
(602) 202-2229 (pager)
jwalton@phoenixchildrens.com

Increase of Respiratory Illnesses Cause Temporary Visitation Restrictions at Phoenix Children's Hospital beginning Tuesday, December 19

PHOENIX, (Dec. 19, 2006) – 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.

Visitation restrictions apply to all patient care areas including the Phoenix Children's Hospital neonatal intensive care units located both at the hospital's main campus and the unit operated at Banner Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center. Excluded are PCH patients presenting in the Emergency Department. Restrictions will go into effect at 5 a.m. on Tuesday, December 19.

“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.

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. Symptoms include a low fever, coughing, labored breathing, wheezing and nasal congestion. The national season for respiratory viral infections usually runs from November to April. Most cases of the illness are seen in Phoenix between December and February.

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.

* MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA: A Full Census respiratory virus season DVD is available upon request (see contact information above). The DVD includes:

1. Full census respiratory Virus Season (full news package)
2. Full census respiratory Virus Season (full package - nat sound only)
3. Various sots from Dr. David Bank, Medical Director of Emergency services at PCH
4. Proper Hand Washing demonstration.
5. Written Description of SOTs