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## **Visitor Restrictions Now in Place in Response to Increase in Influenza** Affecting HSHS hospitals in Green Bay, Sheboygan and Oconto Falls

**Green Bay, Wis.** – Visitor restrictions are now in place at all HSHS – Eastern Wisconsin Division hospitals as a response to the increase of flu cases in our communities: HSHS St. Vincent Hospital, HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center in Green Bay; HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan; and HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls.

### **Restrictions at the above-mentioned locations are as follows:**

- No visitors under the age of 12 in inpatient areas
- No visitors of any age with flu-like symptoms including fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose, fever, vomiting or diarrhea
- Try to limit the number of healthy visitors to 1 or 2 people per patient

It is important to note that these restrictions and guidelines are **not** in place for a pediatric patient coming to one of our hospitals for an outpatient appointment.

While these restrictions are not vastly different than existing infection prevention restrictions for visitors, the high numbers of influenza cases in our communities (including those requiring hospitalization) have prompted us to temporarily put these restrictions in place. We will send out a notification once these have been lifted.

These restrictions are in place to help keep our patients safe and help prevent the spread of germs. It is in doing so that we exemplify our commitment to the dignity and care of all, especially those most vulnerable among us in the midst of this flu season. A few helpful reminders:

- It is not too late to get a flu shot
- Washing your hands frequently is one of the best ways to avoid the flu

We do understand there may be exceptions based on special patient needs that allow families to be with their loved ones. These cases can be discussed with each individual patient’s care team.

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### **About HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center**

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center have been delivering quality health care to Green Bay and its surrounding communities since 1888. With HSHS St. Vincent being the largest tertiary care hospital and HSHS St. Mary's location on Green Bay's west side, patients from Northeastern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan benefit from a comprehensive range of services that include cancer care, women's services, emergency and trauma care, preventive care across the lifespan, digestive health, orthopedic, cardiac care, neurosciences, rehabilitation and pediatrics. Affiliates of Hospital Sisters Health System, the hospitals primary purpose is to continue Christ's healing love through the delivery of competent and compassionate health care in an environment sensitive to the needs of all people. Both hospitals are accredited by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

### **About HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital**

HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital has been delivering high quality health care to Sheboygan and its surrounding communities since 1890. HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital provides a comprehensive range of services that include cancer care, women's services, 24-hour emergency care, digestive health, orthopedics, cardiac, home health and hospice care. The hospital's primary purpose is to continue Christ's healing love through the delivery of high quality and compassionate health care in an environment sensitive to the needs of all people. HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. An affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System, we draw on the history of St. Francis of Assisi as we move to continue serving the health care needs of our area in Christ's healing ministry, caring for all people. To learn more, visit [www.stnicholashospital.org](http://www.stnicholashospital.org).

### **About HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital**

HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital serves Oconto Falls and the surrounding communities as a federally-designated critical access hospital with a 24-hour emergency department, urgent care, general, vascular and orthopedic surgical services, inpatient and outpatient surgical and diagnostic services, rehabilitation, oncology outpatient clinic and women's care. HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital, in affiliation with Prevea Health, has six regional health center locations in Gillett, Lena, Mountain, Oconto, Oconto Falls and Suring. HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital Pharmacies are located in Gillett and Oconto Falls. Founded in 1921 as Community Memorial Hospital, in 2014, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital became the fourteenth hospital in Hospital Sisters Health System. As an affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System, we draw on the history of St. Francis of Assisi as we move to continue serving the health care needs of our area in Christ's healing ministry, caring for all people. For more information about St. Clare, visit [www.stclarememorial.org](http://www.stclarememorial.org).

### **About Hospital Sisters Health System**

Hospital Sisters Health System's (HSHS) mission is to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality, Franciscan health care ministry. HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care to our patients and is dedicated to serving all people, especially the most vulnerable, at each of our 15 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Greenville, Highland, Litchfield, O'Fallon, Shelbyville and Springfield) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Oconto Falls, Sheboygan, and two in Green Bay). HSHS is sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries. For more information about HSHS, visit [www.hshs.org](http://www.hshs.org). For more information about Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, visit [www.hospitalersisters.org](http://www.hospitalersisters.org).