



## **It's official: 2014 Influenza season has arrived!**

And with it comes the requirement that all caregivers who have declined flu vaccinations or whose vaccination status is unknown must wear masks in patient care areas starting **January 7**.

This requirement remains in effect until further notice, 24 hours/day, and 7 days/week.

### **Patient care areas are defined as follows:**

*Any place we interact with patients*

The Infection Prevention Collaborative supports the regional Infection Prevention Team in decision-making if conflicting interpretations of the above guidelines should occur.

### **As always, follow these practices:**

- Anyone who is coughing needs to cover their cough and perform hand hygiene using hand sanitizer or by washing with soap and water.
- Visitors should not come if they are ill; instead leave a note or a message.
- Anyone who enters the Medical Center should perform hand hygiene.
- Encourage everyone to get a flu shot.....it's not too late for this season!

See [Flu Info Now](#) on Crossroads for links to the [policy](#), the list of [patient care areas](#) and other useful resources.