



**For Immediate Release**

**December 31, 2018**

**CarolinaEast Medical Center Restricting Visitation  
For Safety, Visitors Must Be 15 Years Old**

(New Bern, NC) - Effective immediately, visitors to CarolinaEast Medical Center must be at least 15 years old. This limitation is due to the high incidence of influenza in our community and across the state and country. Children under the age of 15 are more at risk of contracting and/or spreading influenza and other viruses. “We held off making this decision as long as we could, but patient safety is our top priority,” said Megan McGarvey, Director, Public Relations. “As with most hospitals in our region, patient census is at an extreme high. We ask for your understanding and patience as we move through this challenging flu season,” she added.

Children under 15 years old will be permitted in the public areas – cafeteria, surgery waiting, etc. – but will not be permitted to visit patient care areas. In addition to the age limitation, CarolinaEast requests there be no more than one to two visitors per patient at any time. CarolinaEast asks that you refrain from visiting if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms: cough, fever, diarrhea, vomiting or respiratory symptoms.

CarolinaEast leadership will continue to monitor the situation and adjust as patient and service needs evolve. “Even with our resources being strained, our employees will do whatever it takes to make sure our community gets the quality care it deserves. That is what we have done 24 hours a day for over 55 years,” said McGarvey.

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