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(Neb)-Flu Concerns Trigger Ban On Visitors Under 18 At Regional West

By: John Axtell Posted at: 01/30/2019 12:55 PM

SCOTTSBLUFF - Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff is temporarily limiting visitor access due to widespread respiratory illness throughout the region.

No visitors under age 18 will be allowed in the hospital until further notice, unless they are a patient or parent of a patient. In addition, any person with a fever, cough, or other flu-like symptom should not visit the hospital for social reasons.

Anyone coming to the hospital or clinics for evaluation and treatment that has a cough and/or fever will be provided with a mask and asked to wear it while in public areas, including waiting rooms.

Regional West Chief Medical Officer Dr Jonathan Morgan says the visitor restrictions were put in place based on public health and Regional West Community Health surveillance that showed a large increase in school absences in Scotts Bluff County last week.

Dr Morgan says residents across the region can take some simple steps to avoid or reduce the chances of respiratory illness such as washing hands frequently, using hand sanitizers, covering coughs appropriately, and staying home from work and/or school when sick.