Let's Talk About...

Visitors in the hospital (friends and family)

You probably have friends and family who want to visit your child while she is in the hospital. We encourage parents and guardians to visit when your child's medical condition allows. Remember that each nursing unit may have a specific visiting procedure.

How do I find out the visiting policy?

Check with your child's nurse to learn about the procedure for your child's unit. It is your responsibility to explain the procedure to your friends and family. You can help them understand that it is best for your child if only a few people visit.

Why should I limit the number of visitors?

- If many friends and family visit your child, it is more likely that someone is ill.
- If a visitor is ill, he can pass the infection on to others, including your child. This could delay your child's discharge from the hospital.

What are the general guidelines for visitors?

- If a child went home early from daycare or school because there was an outbreak of chickenpox, do not bring the child to the hospital.
- If a child went home early from daycare or school because he did not feel well, please do not bring him to the hospital.
- If a person was exposed in the last two weeks to whooping cough, chickenpox, measles, mumps, or any viral infection like the flu, tell him to stay away from the hospital.
- If a person has a runny nose, cough, fever, rash, or sniffles, tell him to stay away from the hospital.
- Everyone should practice proper handwashing technique.
  - — Scrub hands with soap and warm running water for 10–15 seconds.
  - — Rinse hands well after scrubbing.
  - — Use a paper towel to turn off the faucet. This will keep you from picking up viruses or bacteria from the faucet.
  - — If your hands are not visibly soiled, you can use antimicrobial hand sanitizer instead of washing.
- Just as a visitor may bring illness to your child, a well person may become sick while visiting your child if your child has an infectious illness. Please avoid bringing well infants and small children to the hospital to visit your child if she has an infectious illness. This is especially important during the winter months when respiratory viruses are common.

By following this advice, you can help prevent an illness that could delay your child's discharge from the hospital.

Intermountain Primary Children's Medical Center
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801.662.3500 Rev. 08/11

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