Campus readies pandemic illness plan

As the number of confirmed cases of H1N1 (swine) flu increases, so does emergency preparedness at The University of Kansas Hospital, the University of Kansas Medical Center and The University of Kansas Physicians.

Working together

When the World Health Organization issued an influenza pandemic alert, the hospital implemented its pandemic illness plan. In place since 2005, the plan helps ensure centralized communication and operations among all three campus entities. A campuswide taskforce convened and has met daily to monitor the situation, address issues and determine next steps. It will continue to meet until the flu outbreak subsides.

Additionally, medical center staff members are assessing the impact a flu pandemic could have on its education and research and are planning accordingly.

Medical center and hospital leaders issued broadcasts to keep employees apprised and to stress the importance of hand hygiene and other flu prevention measures.

Tamiflu on hand

The hospital purchased extra quantities of Tamiflu, an antiviral medication that effectively treats the H1N1 flu virus. The hospital can access additional doses from the Strategic National Stockpile, if needed.

Training prepares staff

The hospital, medical center and physicians group all benefit from the numerous emergency preparedness experts on campus. Hundreds of hospital and university employees received emergency training online. Many hospital employees received health care preparedness training from the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

The emergency preparedness team also is working closely with the Wyandotte County Health Department and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Hospital celebrates staff contributions

The University of Kansas Hospital will celebrate National Hospital Week – Sunday, May 10, through Saturday, May 16 – with burgers and brats for the staff.

Six celebrations in five locations will give employees on all shifts at all campuses the opportunity to attend. Wear your hospital ID badge to participate.

The hospital’s theme for the annual event is “A Healthy Commitment – Today and Tomorrow.”

During fiscal year 2008, hospital employees:
- Cared for 22,393 inpatients (discharged)
- Staffed 43,392 Emergency Department visits
- Handled 298,920 outpatient appointments

Protect yourself against flu

Symptoms of H1N1 (swine) flu include a fever greater than 100 degrees along with body aches, runny nose, cough and sore throat. Flu viruses spread when people with the flu cough or sneeze around others. Viruses also spread when people touch surfaces contaminated with flu germs, then touch their mouths or noses.

To protect yourself and others from the flu:
- Stay home when you have flu-like symptoms
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol hand rub
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Practice good health habits (i.e., get enough sleep, eat well, drink lots of fluids)

You should suspect H1N1 flu if you have flu symptoms, AND:
- Had contact with a person with confirmed H1N1 flu in the past seven days, OR
- Traveled to an area where H1N1 flu has been confirmed

If you suspect you have been exposed, contact your primary care physician immediately. If you have questions or concerns about H1N1 flu, call Infection Prevention and Control, 8-2779.

For more information, call the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Hotline, 877-427-7317, or visit kdheks.gov.

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Favorite nurses get sweet sentiments

New activities for the annual celebration of National Nurses Week at The University of Kansas Hospital included Nurses Notes. Specially printed note cards were available outside the cafeteria so patients, visitors and employees could express their appreciation to an outstanding nurse and deliver the note with a chocolate bar. Among those promoting the effort were (from left) Tara Bradford, RN, Unit 51; Stephanie Winright, RN, Unit 53; and Leigh Powers, RN, Emergency Department.

PhysDoc go-live support available

You can watch the O2 go-live countdown clock ticking away on 24/7. When “PhysDoc” (short for Physician Documentation) goes live at 3 a.m. Tuesday, May 12, physicians will begin entering all patient information directly into O2.

To help ensure all goes smoothly, a cadre of trained super users, the O2 Go-Tos, will be on hand to support physicians and other O2 users.

- Approximately 150 trained O2 Go-Tos will provide at-the-elbow support for the PhysDoc go-live.
- An O2 Command Center will operate for as long as needed after go-live.
- If you need help and a Go-To isn’t nearby, call the ITS service desk at 8-4894.

Schedule a free hearing screening

You can sign up for free hearing screenings and pick up free earplugs at an information table outside the cafeteria 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 13.

The University of Kansas Medical Center’s Hearing and Speech Department is sponsoring complimentary screenings in the Hearing and Speech Clinic for all campus employees, volunteers and students to promote Better Hearing and Speech Month. To schedule an appointment, call 8-5730 for hearing evaluations or 8-5937 for speech-language services.

Bank Days set

Team captains can turn in contributions and pick up T-shirts and information packets for their team members on Heart Walk Bank Days:

- **Westwood Campus**
  10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 27, Multipurpose Room
- **Hospital and KUMC**
  10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, May 28, Wyandotte Room

The last day to turn in money toward 2009 team goals is Friday, June 26.

Sign up now for KC Heart Walk

The 2009 Start! Kansas City Heart Walk steps off at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 30, at Theis Park, just east of the Country Club Plaza. The walk features 1- and 4-mile routes.

Visit kcheartwalk.org to sign up now on your department team, create your own team or register as an individual. You also can contribute online. Hospital employees can use the payroll deduction form available on 24/7.

The goal for The University of Kansas Hospital and the University of Kansas Medical Center is to recruit more than 900 walkers. Walkers are encouraged to raise at least $25 and to invite family and friends to participate in this benefit for the American Heart Association.

Every walker from campus will receive a specially designed Heart Walk 2009 T-shirt. The vintage red shirts feature the call to action, “Make a Change of Heart.” The slogan helps promote “A Change of Heart,” which is the hospital’s women’s heart health assessment program.

PhysDoc go-live support available

PhysDoc go-live support available

Sign up now for KC Heart Walk
Friday, May 8

PEDIATRIC GRAND Rounds: “Common Foot Problems in the Adolescent Athlete,” Randy Goldstein, DO, 8-9 a.m., Wahl Hall West Auditorium.

PSYCHIATRY GRAND Rounds: “Understanding and Treating Non-suicidal Self-injurious Behavior,” Karyn Perry, PhD, 10:30 a.m.-noon, 3015 Sudler Auditorium.

NURSING EXCELLENCE AwarD S: 3-3:30 p.m., School of Nursing. Lunch provided for first ten attendees. Information: Dolly Wood, 8-6945 or dwood@kumc.edu.

Wednesday, May 13

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES for Older Adults: “How to Choose a Nursing Home,” noon-1 p.m., 200 Landon Center on Aging. Reservations: Matt Chandler, 8-3094 or mchandler@kumc.edu.

Thursday, May 14

LUNG CANCER Support Group: Second and fourth Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Atrium Conference Room, Westwood Campus. Register: 8-1227.

Friday, May 15

PEDIATRIC GRAND ROUNDS: “Managing Pain in the Pediatric Population,” Melanie Simpson, RN, PhD, 8-9 a.m., Wahl Hall West Auditorium.

Retired faculty member to present lecture

Allan Flemming, MD, will present the annual William Root Lecture at noon Tuesday, May 12, in the KU School of Nursing Auditorium.

His presentation is “Laqueanitas Revisited – One Physician’s Experience.” Flemming was an oncology hospitalist and medical director of Hematology/Oncology at The University of Kansas Hospital, as well as an award-winning teaching physician at the University of Kansas Medical Center when he retired in 2008. He is in private practice in Ottawa.

The Kansas Alpha Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and the KU School of Medicine sponsor the lecture.

Jensen keynotes research society symposium

Roy Jensen, MD, director, The University of Kansas Cancer Center, will keynote the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society’s Annual Symposium and Banquet Thursday, May 14, at the KU School of Nursing Auditorium.

Registration is 11:15 a.m. in the atrium, with a catered barbecue lunch at 11:30 a.m. in 4016 Varnes. An awards presentation follows. Jensen’s address, “Building a Cancer Center that Will Make a Difference,” is at 1 p.m.

The University of Kansas Medical Center’s chapter 260 of Sigma Xi sponsors the event. To attend, pay $15 to Udayan Apte, PhD, by Friday, May 8. Send a check to him at 4087 Kansas Life Sciences Innovation Center or contact wapte@kumc.edu.
**Hospital Week Events**

**Monday, May 11**

**Westwood Campus**, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. behind the Administration Center

Broadmoor employees are invited

**Dialysis Center**, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by the west side of the building

**A Healthy Commitment**

**Today and Tomorrow**

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**Tuesday, May 12**

**KU MedWest**, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Community Room

**Hospital, 2nd shift**, 6 to 7:30 p.m. outside the cafeteria

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**Wednesday, May 13**

**Hospital, 3rd shift**, midnight to 1 a.m. (early Wednesday morning) outside the cafeteria

**Hospital, main shift**, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in front of the Miller Building