

Flu Season Is Around the Corner

The winter influenza (flu) season will soon be here and Catholic Health is offering flu vaccines throughout the system. Healthcare personnel – physicians, allied health professionals, staff, volunteers, contracted associates and students are encouraged get their seasonal and H1N1 vaccines.

By getting vaccinated, it helps to protect patients from acquiring the flu from infected healthcare personnel. For the sick, elderly, and those at risk, influenza can cause severe illness and even death. Health experts believe this risk can be significantly reduced if all healthcare workers are vaccinated.

Catholic Health is providing free flu



Mark Saathoff, security office, gets his seasonal flu shot from Paul Noeson, RN, Associate Health.

vaccines to all staff at various sites across the system.

Flu shots are recommended for all people, including school-aged children, who want to lower their chances of becoming sick with the flu or spreading the illness.

H1N1 Vaccine Update

Which vaccine is available? Currently only the live attenuated intranasal monovalent vaccine (LAIV) and non-preservative free injection are available at Catholic Health.

Who can get the LAIV?

- Individuals under age 50
- Healthy individuals who haven't had an allergic reaction to the seasonal flu vaccine and to eggs or other substances in the vaccine
- Non-pregnant women
- Individuals who have not had Guillain-Barré Syndrome

When can other groups get vaccinated? Those not eligible for the current vaccines can receive the preservative-free injectable vaccine when it becomes available.

For the vaccine information visit:
www.immunize.org/vis/h1n1_liveflu.pdf

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Check out the *Kenmore Mercy Foundation Insider*, inside this edition.

Submit news items to:

Dawn M. Cwierley
Public Relations Manager
dcwierle@chsbuffalo.org
(716) 447-6279

View copies of this newsletter online.

Pharmacy Event Helps Environment

During its recent Pharmaceutical Drop-Off event, Kenmore Mercy collected and disposed of nearly 600 pounds of medications, making it the most successful Erie County program thus far.

Working closely with the University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy, Kids Escaping Drugs, the Town of Tonawanda Police Department, and Covanta Energy, the hospital organized the community-wide program to help area residents properly dispose of their expired, unused, or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications.

“The Pharmaceutical Drop-Off event helped take unused prescription medications out of area households and prevent them from ending up in garbage dumps,



Catholic Health and other local pharmacists help sort medications. More than 10,000 dosages were collected and disposed.

polluting the water, or in the hands of our children,” said Frank Heinrich, a pharmacist at Kenmore Mercy.

To learn more about the proper disposal of medications, log on to the NYSDEC website at www.dontflushyourdrugs.net or call 858-6800, option 3.



From The President James Millard

I'd like to thank each of you that took the time to complete the recent Voice of the Associate survey and the shorter President's survey that was conducted earlier this year. By sharing your thoughts with us, you've made an investment in your workplace, helping us to identify areas that we can improve upon.

For example, in our ongoing efforts to communicate more efficiently and effectively with our associates, volunteers and physicians, we recently ordered two electronic message boards. These will be located on the lower level near the cafeteria and on the first floor across from the south elevator. Expect to see these up and running by the end of the year.

While these surveys offer a formal way to ask for your opinions, I would invite you to contact me anytime with ideas and suggestions for improvement.

As always, I'd like to thank you for all that you do for Kenmore Mercy Hospital. Your commitment truly does make a difference and helps to make the hospital a better place to work and to receive care.



Associates, volunteers and physicians enjoy a breezy summer Associate Picnic in August.

Kudos!

Congratulations to the following individuals who recently passed their RN boards.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Latisha Boyd - ICU | Martha Moritz - 3W |
| Leah Hettiger - 2E | Maria Roberts - 2W |
| Natasha Calato - 3E | Amanda Salazar - 2E |
| Leah Colon - 3E | Corrine Stolzenburg - 2W |
| Erin Kahler - 2W | Kelly Wagner - 3E |
| Jessica Kiefer - 2E | Mary Whelan - 3W |

The nurses on 3E were recently recognized by Shared Governance task force for improvements made in their department. Karen Duerr, Mary Willis, Chris Stacey (pictured right) and Tara Groulx (absent), RNs, had plastic wall units installed in the medication room to store non-hospital prescribed patient medications. Also the nurses on 3E developed an IV/blood draw cart in place of hand held IV bins.



Longtime volunteer Bessie Judd was chosen as the Living Life with Hope and Courage Award recipient from ViVa for Life. Judd, a 16 year breast cancer survivor, volunteers in the hospital's surgical waiting room and is a member of the auxiliary.

Olivia Smith-Blackwell, M.D., a family practice physician, was recently selected as a Woman of Distinction by the *Tonawanda News*.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2009 Kenmore Mercy Hospital Auxiliary Basket Raffle. All proceeds will be part of the auxiliary's annual gift to the hospital. Kudos to the auxiliary members who made this event possible.



If you have flu like symptoms -- **high fever, headache, general discomfort, dry cough, sore throat and runny nose** -- please stay home. **H1N1 Flu Hotline:** 800-808-1987 (available 24/7)

Welcome Aboard!

New Medical Staff Appointments

Ayesha Z. Butt, M.D.

Dr. Butt, an internal medicine physician, has joined the Primary Care Division at Ken-Ton FamilyCare Center.



Frederick M. Elliott, M.D.

Dr. Elliott, a family practice physician, has joined Sheridan Medical Group.



NIKHIL PATEL, M.D.

Dr. Patel, a diagnostic radiology physician, is a partner with Dr. Sadashiv Shenoy in the Interventional Radiology Suite – Kenmore Mercy.



PETERKIN LEE-KWEN, M.D.

Dr. Lee-Kwen is an internal medicine physician, specializing in Neurology.



Upcoming Events

November

4 - Small Indulgences Sale (Auxiliary)
Atrium

12 - Blood Drive
Lower Level Conference Room

13 and 16 - Holiday Bazaar (Auxiliary)
Sponsored by the Sewing Group
Atrium

20 - Tribute To Angels
Buffalo/Niagara Marriott Hotel

24 - Thanksgiving Basket Celebration
Atrium

30 - Tree Lighting
and Angel Ornament Collection
Atrium

December

8 - Books are Fun (Auxiliary)
Atrium

12 - Christmas Luncheon (Auxiliary)
Classics V

17 - Holiday Dinner
Cafeteria

McAuley Residence Receives

Deficiency-free Health Department Survey

McAuley Residence, a long term care facility of Catholic Health located behind Kenmore Mercy Hospital, received a “deficiency-free” survey from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). According to the DOH, only seven percent of all nursing homes surveyed in New York State in 2009 achieved “Substantial Compliance,” which means they were deficiency-free or received only minor deficiencies.



CMS contracts with state health departments to visit nursing homes periodically to ensure providers are meeting national regulatory standards. The survey team looks at many aspects of quality and safety including the care of residents, the interaction between residents and staff, and the nursing home environment.

“This is a testament to the high quality care and service our clinical and support staff provide our residents every day of the year,” said Tova Kristal, administrator of McAuley Residence. “Our entire team deserves accolades for this special achievement.”

In addition to providing traditional long term care services, McAuley Residence also offers short-term Subacute Care to help patients make the transition from hospital to home, and a unique HeartStrong cardiac rehabilitation program for patients recovering from serious cardiac conditions.

Kenmore Mercy Welcomes New Mission Vice President

During a recent commissioning ceremony, Kenmore Mercy welcomed Sister Ellen McClure, OSF, who has stepped into the role of Vice President of Mission Integration.

In her new position, Sister Ellen is responsible for the mission, ethics, spiritual care and community benefit functions of the organization and in promoting and integrating the mission, vision and values of daily life in the hospital.

Sister Ellen brings a unique background in mission work coupled with nursing experience. She was vice president for Mission and Ministry at St. Francis Health System in Pittsburgh and served that system in Honolulu, Hawaii before coming to Kenmore Mercy.

“I have found the people of this hospital community both welcoming



and mission-motivated. I am excited to continue the tradition of leadership here as I stand on the shoulders of the Sisters of Mercy and all who have developed the

wonderful spirit I find here,” said Sister Ellen.

Please welcome Sister Ellen to her new role. Her leadership will enable Catholic Health and Kenmore Mercy to be thoroughly permeated with a mission spirit, as her knowledge and experience provide invaluable expertise and lead us into the future.

“Scarless” Surgery

Debuts at Kenmore Mercy

Did You Know?



Makara Tuan (left), a Cambodian patient, benefited from the Language Assistance Program during her stay at Kenmore Mercy in March.

Language Assistance

Catholic Health’s LAP provides free medical interpreter services to patients who have limited English speaking skills, or visual or hearing impairments.

The Language Assistance Program communicates medical information to patients and those responsible or assisting with a patient’s care.

To make sure foreign language patients can understand and communicate important medical information, interpreters service are available through a special telephone system or certified associates. On-site interpreters can be provided for patients with hearing impairments.

The program is available throughout Catholic Health – i.e. admission departments, emergency departments, primary care sites, diagnostic (x-ray/lab), therapy centers, hospital nursing floors, home care and skilled nursing facilities.

When accessing services through Catholic Health, look for the language information identification cards which are also available in patient registration areas. These cards will help us identify which language services patients need assistance with.

Richard Bloomberg, M.D., General Surgeon, will debut the Single Incision Laparoscopic Surgery (SILS™) at Kenmore Mercy Hospital this fall. By using a minimally invasive technique, Dr. Bloomberg makes one small incision through the umbilicus, or belly button, potentially resulting in no visible scarring.

The SILS™ procedure, made possible through the use of a flexible laparoscopic port, is performed in surgeries related to urologic, gynecologic, and bariatric conditions such as cholecystectomies, (or gallbladder removal) and appendectomies.

“This procedure uses only one incision through the belly button versus traditional laparoscopic procedures involving four separate half inch or smaller incisions,” Dr. Bloomberg said. “While laparoscopy traditionally offers better patient outcomes including less pain and improved body



Dr. Richard Bloomberg

preservation than the open approach, SILS™ procedures have the potential to dramatically extend these benefits.”

According to Keith DiPirro, Surgical Device Specialist with Covidien, the company that manufactures the SILS™ port, Kenmore Mercy is the second hospital in the Catholic Health System to perform the SILS™ procedure, which was pioneered at Mercy Hospital.

Currently, Catholic Health is the only health system in Western New York to offer patients this state-of-the-art minimally invasive procedure.

A Reflection from Sister Ellen McClure



The winds of fall are the harbingers of a Buffalo winter, so I am told. The call of a loving God at this time of year is to believe – to

believe that in the changing seasons are the seeds of new spring and summer.

When we reflect on the seasons we can come to an awareness of seasons of grace in our own lives and the lives of those with whom we journey. For skiers, winter brings great joy and fun; for pregnant women - secret growth. For the frail there is fear of flu, colds and falls on icy sidewalks; and for children, snow forts and snowballs.

Deeper in our spirits the Christ of Resurrection says that a spiritual winter will end and that any spiritual darkness on our hearts may

become springtime in a prayerful surrender to the healing love of Jesus.

One of the deepest human religious attitudes is thanks. Out of grateful hearts come praise and generosity. Gratitude overflows into what we call charity – the giving of our abundance and even the sharing of what we need for ourselves with someone who needs it more than we do.

An American expression of gratitude is the feast of Thanksgiving – a time to give thanks, yes, but also a time to give food and supplies to people in need. Let’s continue the Kenmore Mercy tradition of departmental basket preparation for our area churches generously. Since the winter is going to be cold, let’s make it our mission to bring warmth and a good meal to families who are waiting for our gifts.