

# NEWS RELEASE



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**For Immediate Release**

## **HALIFAX REGIONAL PREPARED FOR FLU** *No Confirmed Cases Reported*

**ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC (April 29, 2009)—Caregivers at Halifax Regional are on the alert for people who may have respiratory diseases.**

“There are no suspected cases of swine influenza in the community,” said Karen Daniels, vice president of nursing. “But our staff is prepared for them.” If any patient comes to the Emergency Care Center with symptoms, they will be asked to wear a surgical mask.

A small number of suspected cases have been reported in North Carolina, but none have been confirmed. While officials of the Centers for Disease Control have increased the alert level, they also emphasized that there is no reason for alarm.

Influenza is thought to spread mainly through person to person contact or through sneezing by the infected person. Some advice to stay healthy from the Centers for Disease Control includes:

- ▶ Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw away the tissue.
- ▶ Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are effective.
- ▶ Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

If you are sick, see a physician, stay home from work or school and Limit contact with other people.

For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control web site at [www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key\\_facts.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key_facts.htm).

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### **About Halifax Regional-**

Halifax Regional Medical Center is licensed for 206 beds, including psychiatric and nursery. A non-profit organization, Halifax Regional is fully accredited by the Joint Commission. For more information, visit [www.halifaxregional.us](http://www.halifaxregional.us).