March 16, 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

Hospitals Caution Visitors Who May Have Influenza

The number of flu cases in Springfield and Greene County continues to rise. Data compiled by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department shows 137 confirmed cases of flu for the week of March 4-10, compared to 48 and 44 cases in the previous two weeks. While these numbers are not out of the ordinary, they do indicate that the community is nearing the traditional peak of flu season.

Because of the prevalence of influenza in our community, CoxHealth, Mercy Hospital Springfield and Ozarks Community Hospital have instituted influenza control practices. Until the level of illness declines, these health systems ask that people with flu-like symptoms avoid visiting hospitalized patients at Cox South, Cox North, Cox Walnut Lawn, Cox Monett, Mercy Hospital Springfield, residents at Mercy Villa, and Ozarks Community Hospital.

Hospitalized patients often have compromised immune systems, and exposure to influenza can cause serious complications, even death, for these individuals.

Symptoms of the flu can include:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue

For more information, contact: Mike Brothers, Public Information Administrator, (417) 874-1205.