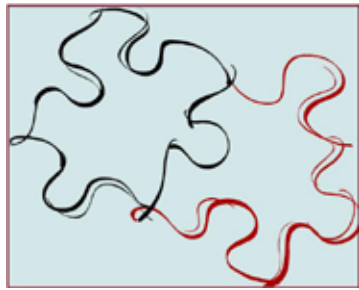


The



Essential Piece

A newsletter for the volunteers at West Park Hospital

First swine flu case reported in Park County

It was probably inevitable, but a case of the H1N1 swine flu has been reported in Park County.

While the virus has not lived up to the apocalyptic predictions of the national media earlier this year, it's still important for the public — and especially hospital and LTCC volunteers — to take precautions.

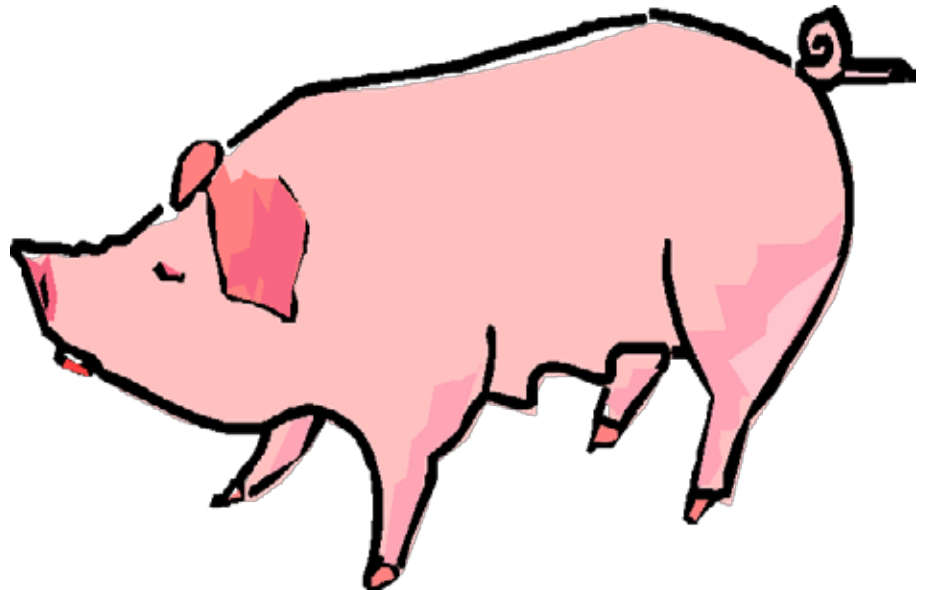
The swine flu has shown itself to be very communicable — that is, easily passed from person to person — but not very severe.

It is acting much like the seasonal flu only it is appearing outside of the normal winter flu season.

Also like the seasonal flu, vulnerable populations such as the elderly, people with weak immune systems and young children, are at the greatest risk for serious complications from the swine flu.

The prudent precautions are basically the same as seasonal flu:


1. Avoid contact with ill persons.
2. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing, and then throw tissues in a trash can.



3. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand gel.
4. Stay home from work, school, travel or volunteering if you have flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat and body aches. ***This is especially important for volunteers at the hospital or LTCC.*** However, those who are severely ill (such as having trouble breathing) should seek medical care.
5. Persons who are at high risk for complications from influenza (such as persons 65 years or older, children younger than 5 years, pregnant women and persons with chronic medical conditions) should consider avoiding

crowded or large gatherings if ill persons may be present.

There have been reported cases in all 50 states and at least 55 cases in Wyoming, mostly mild with a small percentage of serious illness and complications (mostly with vulnerable persons).



West Park HOSPITAL
CODY, WYOMING
The Big Horn Basin's Regional Medical Center

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"You are the essential piece to patient-centered health care."

WPH seeks community input on strategic plan

As part of the hospital's strategic planning process, West Park Hospital invites you to share your ideas on how we can continue to improve the availability and quality of health care services in the region via an online survey.

A link to the survey can be found on West Park Hospital's home page, www.westparkhospital.org under "Hospital News."

If you don't have a computer/

Internet or need help with the survey, contact Community Relations/Volunteer Services Coordinator Joel Hunt at 578-2512 or jhunt@wphcody.org.

In order to maintain privacy and ease tabulation of the survey results, it is only being offered online, but WPH has computers and Internet available, if needed, and Joel can help you get the survey started, after which it's merely a matter of clicking your

choice and typing in any desired comments.

The survey is being administered and results tabulated by QHR. *All answers are anonymous.*

Results will be shared with the hospital's Planning Committee and used in discussions about future direction of the organization.

The survey will be available until 9 p.m. July 12.

Lynne Chadwick wins first Volunteer Spirit of Caring award

In an effort to increase recognition and thank our dedicated volunteers, the Volunteer and Family Involvement Team decided to add a volunteer recipient to the Planetree Spirit of Caring awards.



Lynne Chadwick

Each year, West Park Hospital recognizes an employee who advances, models and personifies the Planetree philosophy of patient-centered care. WPH also names a Planetree Physician Champion from the Medical Staff who also demonstrates excellent patient-centered care.

The Spirit of Caring and Physician

Champion winners were announced at the May barbecue, along with the winner of a new category — the Volunteer Spirit of Caring award.

Three volunteers were nominated for the inaugural Volunteer Spirit of Caring award their contributions to the volunteer program: Jean Lehman (Gift Shop), Lynne

Chadwick (Pet Therapy) and Pat Chapman (Hospice).

Although all three have been dedicated volunteers, the Planetree Steering Committee, which is made up of WPH employees, chose Lynne Chadwick as the winner.



Jean Lehman

Lynne helped WPH implement a Pet Therapy program and continues to observe, test and certify dogs and their handlers.

Pet Therapy continues to be a popular program with both patients and staff and is available at many Planetree hospitals.

In addition to recognition and a congratulatory plaque, Lynne received a gift certificate to Rib & Chop as a small token of appreciation from WPH.



Pat Chapman

If you know a volunteer who has made significant contributions to the hospital volunteer program (which includes LTCC, Hospice, CMC and any other WPH departments or clinics) especially concerning but not limited to patient-centered care, contact Joel Hunt at 578-2512 or jhunt@wphcody.org.

Residents see need for volunteer medical clinic in Cody

The impact of a volunteer medical clinic in Powell has a local group looking to bring a similar service to Cody.

Dr. Stephen Mainini, a local pulmonologist who is spearheading the campaign to start a local branch of the Heart Mountain Volunteer Medical Clinic here, says the need for a free clinic is as great in Cody as it is in Powell, especially during these tough economic times.

According to Dr. Mainini, nearly 1 in 5 patients seen at the free clinic in Powell comes from Cody.

He is working with Dr. Nick Morris, the driving force behind the Tuesday-night free clinic in Powell, and a group of a half-dozen Cody residents to copy the concept. Other participants include Cody Police Chief Perry Rockvam, Madelyn Morris and Rita Mainini.

“It’s going to mirror exactly what’s going on over there on Tuesday nights,” Dr. Mainini said.

The Heart Mountain Volunteer Medical Clinic provides free professional outpatient, non-emergency, acute and chronic primary medical care, according to its Web site, www.hmvmc.org. The clinic serves residents of the Big Horn

What: Free medical clinic informational meeting

Who: The public is invited

When: Thursday, June 25
7 p.m.

Where: WPH Sunlight Room

More information: For questions or further information, call Dr. Stephen Mainini at 527-1915.

Basin whose gross income is at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, are uninsured and do not qualify for any other health care programs.

Dr. Mainini said the Cody branch of the volunteer clinic will draw residents who normally would not seek treatment until a condition becomes a medical emergency.

“These are patients who won’t show up in a doctor’s office anywhere because they’ve lost their job and are uninsured, they’re underinsured, or they’re in need — but they will go to the ER when it’s too late,” he said. “Studies have shown that these volunteer medical clinics actually save communities money. It’s going to be a win-win situation for everyone.”

An informational community meeting about the clinic is scheduled for 7 p.m. June 25 in the Sunlight Room at West Park Hospital. During the meeting, Drs. Mainini and Morris and Rockvam will give a presentation about how the clinic in Powell works and will speak about how a free clinic would be structured in Cody. The group also is recruiting volunteers for the proposed clinic.

“I think once organizations find out about this, they’re going to want to jump on board,” Dr. Mainini said.

The impact that volunteers make is extremely significant

In 2008, West Park Hospital volunteers accumulated *more than 6,156 hours*.

That’s equivalent to:

- 1,030 Long Term Care Center
- 1,416 Cody Blood Drive
- 1,820 Hospital Gift Shop
- 1,200 West Park Hospital
- 596 Spirit Mountain Hospice
- \$20.25/hour (2008 estimate of the worth of volunteer time)
- 2.96 full-time employees
- \$124,659 worth of work
- 153.9 40-hour weeks
- 769.5 eight-hour days
- 2 straight years of 8-hour days



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Family and Volunteer Involvement Team

- Joel Hunt, Volunteer Services coordinator (chairman)
- Dawn Garrison, Planetree coordinator
- Donna Daniels, switchboard employee/Gift Shop
- Donna Zubik, LTCC
- Janice May, LTCC activities director
- Randy Leisey, Hospice chaplain/volunteer coordinator
- Donna Turecek, Pharmacy

