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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VISITOR RESTRICTIONS LIFTED AT MUSKOKA ALGONQUIN HEALTHCARE

(Muskoka, ON) — Effective immediately, Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) will lift the temporary restrictions on visitors to all of its sites that were put in place October 29, 2009 to help minimize the spread of the flu.

Though the restrictions have been lifted, visitors should continue to exercise good judgment and refrain from visiting people in the hospital if they are experiencing any flu-like symptoms (including fever, headache, fatigue and weakness, cough and chest discomfort, sore throat and sometimes a runny or stuffy nose).

“Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare would like to thank all patients, families and our communities for your patience and understanding while the restricted visitor policy was in place,” says Chief Nursing Officer, Bev McFarlane. “Your support has helped us ensure the safety of both our patients and staff. We recognize the importance of the support of family and friends during the healing process and have moved to lift these restrictions as soon as we felt it was safe to do so.”

Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare's regular visiting hours are from 2 pm - 8 pm daily. There is also a limit of two (2) visitors per patient at any one time.

Proper handwashing and cough etiquette remain key strategies to reduce the spread of any flu virus. Those who do visit are reminded to please sanitize their hands immediately upon arrival and frequently thereafter at one of the many hand sanitizing stations situated throughout the sites.

Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare would like to remind community members that the best defence against both the seasonal and H1N1 flu virus is vaccination, and encourage people to obtain vaccinations at their nearest local clinic. Information on clinic locations and times can be found at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

- 30 -

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