

## **Important Questions Regarding the Flu**

### **1. When will Children's test a patient for the flu?**

Children's will test a child with flu-like symptoms if the child also has:

- A serious disease or chronic health problems such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, metabolic conditions, neurologic and neuromuscular disorders

Or

- Has been in close contact with persons with increased risk of being exposed to the flu such as a medical worker's child

Children's will test all children with flu-like symptoms under the age of 5.

### **Why is Children's not testing patients for the flu?**

Both the seasonal flu and H1N1 cause like symptoms in patients. In most cases, the flu can be treated at home. This is why Children's is following the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, and are not testing patients for flu unless they have flu-like symptoms and one of the reasons listed above.

### **When should I bring my child to the doctor?**

Call or take your child to a doctor right away if your child of any age has:

- \*Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- \*Severe or persistent vomiting
- \*Blue or gray skin color
- \*Not waking up or responding
- \*Not drinking much fluid
- \*Is so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- \*Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

Has other serious conditions (like heart or lung disease, diabetes, or asthma) and develops flu-like symptoms, including a fever and/or cough.

### **How should I treat my child for the flu?**

If your child does not have other health problems consult your doctor, when needed and make sure your child gets a lot rest and drinks more fluids.