



Ask about our **mask.**

The **flu** season is here.

This flu season, Barton Health's priority is to protect the health of our patients, employees and community. Since our employees work closely with flu patients, Barton officials strive to protect our patients and community from the flu.

New for 2013, El Dorado County's Public Health Officer has ordered a masking protocol for health care facilities. **During peak flu season (Dec. 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013) patients and visitors to Barton Health facilities will see some staff and physicians wearing masks.** These are persons who have either declined a flu immunization or who are unable to get immunized due to medical reasons.

Vaccinated staff (those not wearing a mask) can be identified by a green sticker on their ID badge. While Barton Health is taking every step to prevent the spread of flu, there is much community members can do as well.

Tips to help prevent the spread of the flu in our community:

- Get immunized with the influenza vaccine.
- Do not visit hospitalized patients if you are ill with respiratory symptoms.
- If you are visiting in the hospital and have not been immunized for influenza, please wear a mask. Masks are available, along with hand sanitizer, at the hospital entrance and in physician office lobbies. Ask staff if you need assistance.
- Wash your hands often.
- Cover your mouth and nose into your elbow when sneezing and coughing.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home from work, school and other activities if you are sick.

For more information about the flu, visit cdc.gov/flu.