Date: April 23, 2018
To: All Media
From: Peoria City/County Health Department, Diana Scott, 309-679-6603
Tazewell County Health Department, Sara Sparkman, 309-925-5511, ext 264

For Immediate Release

Decreased Flu Activity Prompts Area Hospitals to Lift Visitor Restrictions

Due to decreased seasonal flu activity in the Peoria region, on April 23, 2018, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center; UnityPoint Health’s Methodist, Proctor, and Pekin campuses; and Hopedale Medical Complex are lifting their request to the public to voluntarily limit hospital visits.

Based on community influenza and illness data, the Peoria City/County Health Department recommended the hospitals lift their visitor restrictions. As good hygiene practice to prevent spread of disease, general precautions for the public remain:

- Everyone should wash their hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand foam/gel.
- People should cough or sneeze into their arm, shoulder, or tissue (not hands) to reduce the spread of germs that can be passed from hands touching surfaces or people.
- If you or a family member are sick, stay home to prevent the spread of illness to others.

The health care community stands together in the best interest of patient health and safety.

For additional tips on staying healthy during all seasons, visit http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/habits.htm.

###