



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 27, 2009

### **HEALTH AUTHORITY REMOVES TOYS AND READING MATERIAL FROM WAITING ROOMS**

AUTHORITY WIDE – Residents living within the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) are being asked to bring their own toys and reading material to the hospital when visiting.

To help control the spread of viruses and germs to staff, patients and visitors, VIHA is removing all toys, books and magazines from hospital waiting areas. These items have already been removed from all Emergency Departments, following recent recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

“We recognize the toys in waiting areas are a great comfort and distraction for little ones, however, it is just not possible to clean them between every patient,” explains Bev Dobbyn, Director of Infection Prevention and Control for VIHA. “In these times of viral outbreak, specifically the H1N1 Pandemic, we are hoping to interrupt the spread of infection by not providing these items.”

Although the transmission of germs and bacteria on paper products, such as books and magazines, is a very low risk, VIHA is also removing them so that cleaning staff can ensure all table surfaces are disinfected properly on a regular basis.

When visiting the hospital, patients and visitors are welcome to bring their own reading material and toys, provided they are taken home when leaving the hospital.

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For more information about coming to a hospital, please visit:  
[http://www.viha.ca/finding\\_care/hospital/](http://www.viha.ca/finding_care/hospital/)

Media contact:  
Shannon Marshall  
VIHA Communications  
250-370-8270