

The Hampton County Guardian

HRMC begins 'Fight Flu Fridays' campaign



By Michael M. DeWitt, Jr.

Published on Thursday, October 15, 2009 - 8:20am /

First Byline:

Michael M. DeWitt, Jr.

VARNVILLE - Any day is a good day to fight the flu, but the Hampton Regional Medical Center's staff really suit up to battle germs on Fridays.

As part of the local hospital's latest campaign to encourage better hygiene and slow the spread of the flu virus, a team of HRMC staff members will be heading out into the community every Friday, beginning this week, to encourage people to scrub up and clean up their acts.

"There are so many preventable disease and illnesses out there, and the most important thing you can do to prevent most of them is something as simple as hand washing," said Kathy Jarrell.

Calling themselves "The Grime Scene Investigation Team", the group plans to go into schools, daycares, businesses, and other public places each Friday during flu season - dubbed Fight Flu Fridays - to encourage better hygiene and educate the public on disease preventative measures as part of a statewide initiative that originated through the South Carolina Hospital Association in early September.

"If we can start educating people at a young age, they'll have good hygiene practices for life," said Gwen Smith. "Basically, anything this hospital can do to help the public fight disease and illness, that's what we're here for."

Each hospital, armed with a Grime Scene Investigation kit, will educate young and adult alike with fun games such as "Sink Those Germs", a black light germ demonstration, and with tons of informative handouts and coloring sheets.

They've even branded their own slogan on T-shirts: "You have a hand in fighting germs." Each shirt has a picture of a hand on it, which symbolizes the simplest way to fight germs.

"Washing those ten little fingers are the ten best ways to prevent the spread of infections," says Smith.

And hopefully, others in the community will join them and participate in Fight Flu Fridays either as a partner or a host.

If you would like for the Grime Scene team to pay you a visit, call Jarrell at 914-2046.

"We can do it for churches, daycares, anyone," she adds. "We'll be glad to come to any event."

The team also plans to participate in HRMC' upcoming Health Fair on Oct. 10.

"It's important that we educate the public, our co-workers, everybody," said Jarrell.