

NOVEMBER 2014

New face masks protect patients

While we all know that wearing a face mask is one way to decrease the risk of infection for your child, it is not always easy to ask your child to do this. Recently the St. Jude face masks, also known as N-95 or particulate masks, have been updated to provide better protection and more comfort.

These new masks have a better fit, especially for smaller faces. You no longer need to trim the mask to help it fit. It can now provide better

protection since it doesn't gap on the sides of the face or under the chin.

The new masks are also softer and more comfortable with no staples. And, you can continue to place the cloth headbands on the straps for added comfort or style.

All patients who are advised to wear a mask for protection will start seeing these new masks as the inventory of old masks is phased out.

Those who would normally need to wear a mask are patients with

leukemia who have ANCs below 500, patients who have recently had bone marrow (stem cell) transplants and any patient whose medical team feels a mask is needed to prevent infection.

If you have questions or concerns about the new masks, talk to your child's doctor or nurse.

To learn more about how to use the new mask, ask for a copy of the handout "Do You Know... How to Use an N-95 Mask."

New research and care center opens at St. Jude

Parts of Tower II (the new building next to the Chili's Care Center) opened October 23. Along with new conference space on the ground floor and research labs on the sixth floor, the building's second floor is the new location for the hospital's Intensive Care Unit and Surgical Center.

The ICU still has eight patient beds, but the rooms are considerably larger and each has a parent room and full bathroom attached. Entry into each parent room will be through

the patient room. "Of course, we would love for our patients to never have to come to the ICU, but we are very excited about the fact that the equipment, amenities and environment are state of the art and designed with input from patients and families, as well as from nursing and medical staff," said Inpatient Director Robin Mobley, RN, MSN.

The new surgical suite has a new procedure room and three large operating rooms with the latest technolo-

gy. The post anesthesia area has room for six patients rather than three, five patient bays and a new isolation suite. The new space also includes a beautiful, large waiting room with a wall of windows that provides natural light during the day. Operating Room Nurse Manager Carol Langston, RN, BSN, said, "The staff is excited about using the new technology and the advantages it will bring us in the surgical care we provide."

The new building will also include a state-of-the-art proton therapy center, which should open near the end of 2015.

St. Jude staff studies how well bath wipes work for transplant patients

As most St. Jude parents know, daily baths are important for controlling infection. Cleanliness is especially important on the Transplant Unit. Children undergoing transplants are at high risk for the type of infections that happen most often in hospitals. Breaks in the skin from skin graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), germs on the skin, and rashes can lead to serious, life-threatening infections after bone marrow (stem cell) transplants.

A new study just beginning at St. Jude hopes to decrease the infection risk in transplant patients by using disposable bath wipes for bathing. A daily bath with specially made bath wipes can protect the skin against germs that can cause serious infections.

If you are on the Transplant Unit, your child will be placed in one of two groups for daily baths. Each group will be given one of two bath wipe products. The staff wants to learn which product is most effective at preventing infection by reducing germs on the skin. Staff will test how well the products work by taking a skin swab from your child's skin under the arm, in the groin and around the bottom. The skin will be swabbed before admission to the Transplant Unit, at the time of discharge and at about 60 days after transplant.

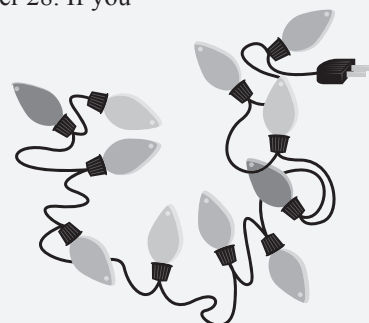
Bath wipes are the primary way your child will bathe while in the Transplant Unit and for about a month after initial discharge. The bath wipes will be used instead of a tub bath or shower or right after having a tub bath or shower.

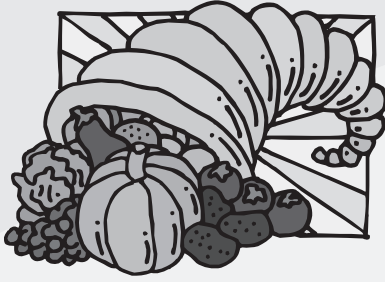
If your child is involved in this study, you will be given a daily bath journal to record each bath. You will review the journal weekly with your child's nurse. With your help, St. Jude can find the best bath wipe product to help prevent serious infections in all transplant patients.

Patient families can view Starry Nights for half price

The annual Starry Nights light display at Shelby Farms Park in Memphis will offer half-price tickets for St. Jude patient families every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening beginning November 21. Patients must show their hospital wristband to receive this discount. The regular admission price is \$20 per car, and patient families pay only \$10 per car.

Starry Nights will be open November 21 through December 28. If you would like to find out more about this huge, drive-thru holiday light display, visit www.shelbyfarmspark.org/starrynights.





Talking about Medicines

Oral syringes versus IV syringes

By Cheri Wilkerson, PharmD, and Steve Pate, PharmD, Pharmacy Services

Many times when we hear the word syringe, we think of a syringe that is used to inject medicine into the body. But, a different type of syringe is used to give medicines by mouth (oral). These syringes are a great way to measure oral liquid medicine, so each dose is accurate.

For your child's safety, make sure you know how to give each medicine the correct way. Here are a few things to remember:

- Always be sure you listen carefully when your doctor, nurse or pharmacist describes how to give the medicine. Do not be afraid to ask questions about anything you do not understand. If you are unsure about something, ask them to repeat the instructions a second time.
- Read the prescription labels carefully to be sure you received the medicine in the proper form, such as a liquid or tablet.
- Throw out oral syringes after each use with chemotherapy. For all other medicines, you can wash and reuse oral syringes unless the clinic doctor or nurse tells you otherwise.
- Oral syringes are only meant to be used by mouth. Usually, oral syringes will be amber or orange in color, except when a patient needs a dose larger than 10mls.
- Clear syringes usually are used to inject medicines into the body through an IV or injected in a muscle (IM) or just under the skin (sub-Q).
- The tip of an oral syringe is different than the tip on an IV syringe. An oral syringe will not fit onto the end cap of a patient's IV line. The syringe tips were designed this way in hopes of preventing medicine errors.
- Store oral syringes separately from IV syringes to avoid making mistakes with your child's medicines.
- Pre-filled oral syringes have a cap on the end to prevent the liquid medicine from leaking out. As soon as you are ready to give the medicine, remove this cap and throw it away to prevent your child from swallowing the cap and choking. There should never be a need to recap an oral syringe.

If you have questions about any of your child's medicines, be sure to talk with a St. Jude pharmacist, doctor or nurse.



St. Jude Parents is published on the first of each month by Patient Education and Bio-medical Communications. Your questions and comments are important to us. **We want to print advice and tips from St. Jude parents to other St. Jude parents.**

To share your ideas or to receive this newsletter by email, please call or email Alicia Huettel, RN, MSN, at 901-595-5453 (parents_newsletter@stjude.org) or Lois Young (lois.young@stjude.org). To subscribe to an online version of this newsletter, visit www.stjude.org/parents-newsletter.

If you have a smart phone, learn more about *St. Jude Parents* with this QR code. St. Jude is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

ALSAC • Danny Thomas, Founder

Finding cures. Saving children.

262 Danny Thomas Place
Memphis, TN 38105-3678

For the latest details on upcoming events, see the bulletin board in the Patient Care Center lobby near Patient Registration.