

Worries about flu contact in waiting rooms

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CHESTERFIELD, VA (WWBT) - A local woman tells us she was at a Patient First in Midlothian, two days ago as a woman was tested for the swine flu. That patient tested negative. But as people go to get tested, what are local medical facilities are doing to protect the other patients in the waiting room.

Patient First says its had to perform a swine flu test this week, but as of right now it has not had a single positive swine flu test at any of its locations.

Carolyn Reams gave birth to little Tash just two weeks ago. She was in the Midlothian Patient First Tuesday night when she caught a glimpse of a nurse in an outfit she wasn't prepared to see.

"She was wearing a yellow gown that tied in the back and then she had a face mask on. And gloves," said Reams.

Reams heard the nurse tell the doctor about a patient with flu like symptoms who may have been exposed to swine flu.

"The doctor told her to swab the woman's throat. And to swab her nose. And the nurse was very cautious," she said.

Reams says she was in shock.

"It was just really unreal. You hear about it all over the news but you don't think you're the one who could be exposed to it," said Reams.

Patient First says it just got the test results back from the CDC and the patient tested negative. But officials say the protocol followed at the Midlothian office is there to protect waiting room patients and staff.

"We immediately put a mask on that person. Again this is following CDC guidelines. That person is taken to the back. And the incident that you're reporting. That's what happened. The person was put in a mask. The mask remained on that patient until they left," said Jim Schulenberg of Patient First.

There are even signs posted on the door and sign in desk, asking people to inform the receptionist immediately if they have flu like symptoms and have been to Mexico.

"When a patent comes in and identifies they are concerned we take proactive measures right there are on the spot," said Schulenberg.

Doctors say, if you think you've been exposed, you can not be tested until you start showing symptoms. Medical facilities are closely following the CDC's guidelines which do change as we learn more about the flu. If you have any concerns it is also recommended you call your physician.