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NEWS RELEASE

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(For immediate release)

FAIRFIELD MEDICAL CENTER GOES LATEX SAFE

LANCASTER, Ohio (August 8, 2008) – Fairfield Medical Center is going “latex safe,” to promote safety among patients, staff, and physicians. What does that mean? Although it is nearly impossible to remove everything that contains latex from the hospital setting, Fairfield Medical Center is making every attempt to have the least amount of latex in the hospital as possible.

Some research literature suggests that 6% or more of the general public have an anti-latex antibody predisposing them to latex sensitivity. For people working in health care that percent may be even higher. In order to protect our patients, staff, and physicians, the Center is striving to reduce exposure to latex by converting hospital equipment/supplies to latex free wherever possible. There are several thousands of items and pieces of equipment containing latex in the hospital. The most significant latex impact is the sterile gloves we use. Currently, the hospital uses over 85,000 pairs of sterile gloves per year.

To keep our patients, staff and physicians safe, Fairfield Medical Center will be transitioning to the latex-free gloves beginning September 1, 2008. Pamela Reed, Surgery Manager at Fairfield Medical Center, commented, “Such an initiative promotes safety to the highest degree, and I am glad that Fairfield Medical Center puts such an emphasis on staff and physician safety, along with high quality patient care.”

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