

Portland Metro/National

Hospitals overwhelmed by flu victims

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We've survived the Y2K bug...only to be attacked by the flu bug. Flu season took hold in earnest over the holidays. "Influenza activity is picking up in most parts of the country," says Keiji Fukuda of the Center for Disease Control. Doctors all over the U.S. agree and emergency rooms are being

swamped. Dr. Stephen Lynn of St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital in New York City has seen hundreds of flu cases just in the last few days. "Some years are good flu years. Others are bad. This year seems to be particularly bad," he says. Some parts of the country are faring worse than others. Hospitals in New York, Atlanta and Los Angeles are reporting a surge in cases.

Dr. Susan Stangl of the UCLA Family Health Center says that surge has come little earlier than usual. "We tend to see more flu in January and February but we're definitely seeing a lot of people, probably a twenty to thirty percent increase over last year." Symptoms include cough, headache and a high fever that won't subside. Even the new anti-flu drugs on the market won't help if you wait too long

to see a doctor. "For three or four days I've been sick," says flu victim Shirley Pistor. "I could practically not get out of bed." The good news is that this flu is a known enemy, influenza A, and the flu shot is still up to 90-percent effective against it. But doctors admit at this time of year there are so many other viruses out there it may be impossible to avoid them all.



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American aboard hijacked flight back in U.S.

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The sole American held hostage aboard an Indian Airlines jet hijacked en route to India says passengers didn't know each day whether they would eat—or if each meal might be their last. "You didn't know if there was going to be a delivery or not," Jeanne Moore told ABC's "Good Morning America" in an interview aired Tuesday. "You didn't know if you were going to get swarmed, the guys were going to drop the grenades or not." Moore, 53, a special education teacher from Bakersfield, Calif., arrived at Los Angeles International Airport on Tuesday, exhausted and suffering from pneumonia and other ailments. Security officials allowed her to leave through a separate exit to bypass

reporters and relatives, including her elderly parents, who had waited at least two hours for her arrival. She contracted pneumonia during the ordeal and was suffering from stomach problems, said her brother-in-law George Welch. Otherwise, she was in good spirits Tuesday. "Her family has her squirreled away for a few days so she can rest because her health isn't the best," Welch said outside his in-laws' home in Burbank. "She's happy to be back in the good old USA." She was expected to remain near Los Angeles for the next few days before returning home. The eight-day ordeal for Moore and 154 other passengers began when their jet was hijacked on its way from Katmandu, Nepal to New Delhi on Christmas Eve. One passenger was killed shortly thereafter.

It ended on New Year's Eve after three Kashmiri activists were freed from Indian jails in exchange for the 155 passengers and crew members. Moore described a continually tense atmosphere aboard the plane. She said one of her captors struck her on the head after she made a slight movement to blow a bug off her hand. "It was not fun and games all the time," she said. "I don't recommend it as a vacation to anyone."

"As bad as you think it is, multiply that by a couple of times and that's what you've got." While waiting at the airport, her father, Harold Redding, said the family "did not know what kind of crazy people had a hold of her so we were worried about her safety." He described his daughter as an "achiever," and said that the hijacking probably wouldn't stop her from traveling again.

Suspect in fatal hotel shooting had been arrested

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A hotel housekeeper accused of killing five people last week was arrested in 1997 for a stabbing in Alabama but never prosecuted. The district attorney in Mobile County, Ala., said Tuesday that a grand jury refused to indict Silvio Izquierdo-Leyva after investigators failed to get the victim and a key witness to testify. Police said Izquierdo-Leyva, 36, fatally shot four co-workers at Tampa's Radisson Bay Harbor hotel Thursday, then killed a woman in an attempt to steal her car. Three other hotel employees were wounded. Izquierdo-Leyva is being held without bail on charges of murder and carjacking. A motive for the shootings has not been disclosed. Nearly 200 people attended a funeral Tuesday for Dolores Perdomo, 56, the motorist shot in the botched carjacking. Holly Winn, the wife of the Alabama stabbing victim, said Izquierdo-Leyva, looking "dazed, not his usual self," showed up at her home a week after she moved in with her future husband. Ms. Winn said Izquierdo-Leyva stabbed the man repeatedly. The man needed about 200 stitches, and his face and arms are scarred. Mobile County District Attorney John Tyson said records indicate his office repeatedly tried to contact Ms. Winn and her husband, Luis Gordillo-Leal, to ask them to testify but could not reach them. Ms. Winn said she and Gordillo-Leal moved to Tampa soon after the stabbing but gave statements to prosecutors before moving.

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high 158 rushing yards to Curtis Martin. "We cannot win a playoff game if we play like we did against the Jets," said Williams, who played in four playoffs and a Super Bowl in Pittsburgh from 1993-96. Asked if he felt like an AFC West champion, Williams said: "Personally, I don't. We just don't have that feeling yet because we lost against the Jets." The Seahawks (9-7) will play wild-card entry Miami (9-7) on Sunday in the Kingdome. In the Jets game, the Seahawks were

hampered by a subpar Ricky Watters, who played with a brace on his sprained right knee. Watters was restricted to 30 yards on nine carries. "I'm really excited for the whole franchise and everybody to be able to go to the playoffs," Watters said. "But when you lose five of the last six, there's got to be a bad taste in everybody's mouth. "We have not been getting the job done. I hope everybody feels the same way. If we keep playing the way we've been playing, is it going to matter? We're going to get beat."

Coaches from page 3

considered even more strongly staying on," Parcels said. "I think one of the things I have always tried to pride myself on is that if I did go someplace, when I left there that it was a better operation. I feel that way now." Rhodes, hired by Green Bay when Mike Holmgren quit to become Seattle's coach and general manager, was fired after an 8-8 season, with general manager Ron Wolf saying Rhodes didn't live up to expectations. "Is he a different coach than I thought he was?" Wolf said of Rhodes, fired by Philadelphia after going 3-13 last season. "Yes." Wolf said he had no successor in mind. "This is going to take a while," he said. "There's no one on the wall

who's a slam dunk." Carroll, Parcels' successor in New England, reportedly is headed for Seattle, where he would become defensive coordinator, a job left open when the late Fritz Shurmur became ill last summer. With Belichick out of the picture, the front-runner in New England might be former Kansas City coach Marty Schottenheimer. Ditka is the only other coach believed to be in immediate jeopardy. The New Orleans coach canceled his regular Monday briefing and will meet Thursday with owner Tom Benson and general manager Bill Kuharich. Ditka, 3-13 this season and 15-33 in three years with the Saints, has said he would like to return

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