

St. Elizabeth's Non-Smoking Campus

As a healthcare institution that focuses on providing the best quality of life to our patients, visitors and employees St. Elizabeth's Hospital is proud to announce that it will be a completely tobacco-free campus beginning September 1st, 2006.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital believes that promoting a tobacco-free environment reinforces a message that tobacco use is unhealthy. The initiative is designed to support staff and patients in their efforts to improve their health and facilitate a positive behavior change.

"We realize that the scope and magnitude of this project is significant, but St. Elizabeth's is stepping forward and demonstrating to our patients, employees, contract staff, other stakeholders and the community at-large that a tobacco-free work environment, particularly in the healthcare setting, is simply the right thing to do," said Bob Miller, committee chair of the Tobacco Free initiative and Administrative Director of Human Resources and Material Management.

The timing of this tobacco-free initiative coincides with newly passed Missouri regulations for smoke free environments. St. Elizabeth's Hospital is joining with other Illinois hospitals in a voluntary initiative to demonstrate tobacco-free as the healthy model for the community. Other Illinois hospitals include St. Anthony's Hospital, Alton Memorial Hospital, Anderson Hospital and Touchette Regional Hospital.

The policy will address the use of all tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and smokeless tobacco) within all St. Elizabeth's Hospital owned and managed buildings, properties and grounds. This applies to all employees, patients, medical staff, students, contracted personnel, auxiliary members, volunteers, visitors, vendors and tenants.

St. Elizabeth's will offer its employees an assessment to identify nicotine replacement products on a temporary basis or therapy through Respiratory Therapy and Behavioral Health Services. In addition, the Wellness Program will offer education sessions on smoking cessation, stress and anxiety, and nutrition. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Mike Lawrence at ext. 1287.

Our mission to promote health and wellness in the community encompasses all members of the internal hospital community as well. St. Elizabeth's Hospital recognizes the importance of supporting employees, patients and the community in a tobacco-free environment.

