



What you need to know about...

## Tobacco-Free Hospital Campuses

A **smoke-free campus** is defined as a hospital, medical center or health care organization that does not allow smoking on any property controlled by the employer, including outside common areas or campuses.

A **tobacco-free campus** is defined as a hospital, medical center or health care organization that prohibits all forms of tobacco (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookah, electronic cigarettes, chew, snus and other smokeless tobacco products). It also prohibits the use and sale of tobacco on hospital owned or leased property, which includes buildings, grounds, plazas, ramps, parking lots, personal vehicles on the property and outdoor common areas.

### How common are tobacco-free campuses?

More than 2,700 state hospitals, healthcare systems and clinics in the U.S. have tobacco-free campus grounds, which includes outdoor areas and parking lots. In Chicago, a majority of hospitals have smoke-free campuses, including the University of Chicago Medical Center, Rush University Medical Center, Stroger Hospital and Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

### Benefits of a Tobacco-Free Hospital Campus

- Reduced exposure to the health hazards of smoking and improved health of patients, employees and visitors
- Decreased maintenance costs
- Increased credibility of hospital as an advocate and role model for healthy lifestyles

- Higher smoking cessation among patients
- Decreased employee smoking prevalence and lower direct and indirect costs, including additional health care and insurance costs, lost productivity, absenteeism, property damage and maintenance costs.

### How We Can Help

The Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project (CTPP) is a collaborative effort between Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago and Chicago Department of Public Health. The project's goal is to implement citywide policies designed to decrease tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke in Chicago.

CTPP offers services to hospitals that pledge to go tobacco-free campus-wide. Services include the following:

- Technical assistance with policy language development and implementation planning
- Materials including signage and literature
- Development of a site-specific cessation campaign to direct patients and employees to cessation resources

*For more information, please contact Anne Dienethal, Policy Coordinator for the Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project, at (312) 628-0199 or by email at [adienethal@lungchicago.org](mailto:adienethal@lungchicago.org).*