

Tobacco Free Lee: Phase II

- Lee Memorial Health System will become a tobacco free organization on Nov. 19, 2009, which coincides with the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout.
- Tobacco Free Lee means that as of Nov. 19, 2009 all forms of tobacco, including cigarettes and smokeless tobacco like chewing tobacco or dip, would be prohibited from use on Lee Memorial Health System properties both owned and leased.
- In preparation, our health system is launching Phase II of our tobacco free rollout on June 19, 2009.
- Phase II is the next step in our process as LMHS goes tobacco free. (Phase I consisted of research and then approval by the LMHS Board of Directors.)
- Starting Friday, June 19, the smoking locations at each of our hospitals, physician offices, business offices and outpatient centers will change.
- There will be only one designated temporary smoking area at each hospital for employees to smoke that **is not** in patient, visitor, or employee traffic areas. These will be available from June 19 to Nov.19.
- Additionally, there will be designated temporary smoking areas at each hospital for patients and families that **are not** in patient, visitor, or employee traffic areas. These will be available from June 19 to Nov.19.
- These areas are not the same. Employees are asked not to smoke in same location as patients.
- Smoking will not be allowed outside of these designated areas.
- At all physician offices, business offices and outpatient centers---both owned and leased--- employees, physicians and visitors will be ask to stand 30 feet from the building to smoke in space that **is not** a patient, visitor, or employee traffic area.
- These changes are being made in order to provide a healthy environment for patients, visitors and staff who do not smoke at all of our facilities.
- These new policies also apply to any vendors and physicians, as well as community partners like EMS/fire rescue and law enforcement.
- In order to see the newly designated smoking locations, please visit the following link to print maps for your staff: <http://intranet1/communication/TFL.asp>.
- If you see a staff member, physician, patient or family member smoking outside of the newly designated area, we have designed a non-aggressive approach to informing them of our new policy.
- For this program to be successful, we must all take ownership to provide a healthy environment for our patients, visitors and staff. Please hand the smoker or tobacco user a 3x5 card from the information or front desk at each location. These "Tobacco Free Lee" cards will gently ask the person to move to the new area. (Maps will also be at the information desks at each facility, outpatient center or physician office.)

- There will also be signs posted at each location informing employees, physicians and visitors of the new smoking locations. You may wish to point these out to smokers or tobacco users.
- If your staff members have questions that are not on the FAQ sheet, please e-mail the questions to ihaveaquestion@leememorial.org and the “Tobacco Free Lee” Steering Committee will answer the question within five working days.
- All team members who e-mail ihaveaquestion@leememorial.org remain anonymous.
- Going tobacco free is a major change for our health system. Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to meet our mission to improve the health status of the citizens of Southwest Florida by supporting a tobacco free environment and a healthy workplace.

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