

DCH HEALTH SYSTEM SMOKING POLICY

As a health care provider, DCH Health System believes a smoke-free environment is an essential component to promoting health and safety for our patients, visitors, and staff. Smoking and the use of tobacco products within a DCH facility and in heavily traveled public areas, is in direct conflict with our commitment to a healthy environment.

In addition to DCH's commitment to restricting smoking and the use of tobacco products on its premises, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations now requires a smoke free policy for all hospitals. This standard is an integral part of the accreditation program. Further, published studies confirm increased risks of lung cancer and heart disease for both smokers and non-smokers who are exposed to environmental tobacco smoke.

In keeping with community standards and with the intent to provide a smoke-free environment for our patients, employees, visitors and all others who utilize our facilities, the provisions of the following policy will become effective immediately. DCH asks for your full cooperation in implementing this policy.

1. All the DCH Health System facilities will be completely smoke-free and free from all usage of any tobacco products. This policy includes employees, volunteers, physicians, visitors and patients.
2. Smoking will not be allowed near entrances, or in open areas adjacent to buildings, as there must be proper ventilation ensuring that no second-hand smoke can reflux into the building. Additionally, this ensures that people will not be required to walk through smoking areas.
3. Approved External Smoking Areas.

DCH Regional Medical Center

Smoking is permitted on the patio areas at the Regional Medical Center, behind Trustee Hall and the smoking shelter and park benches in front of the Medical Office Building.

Visitors and patient families will be allowed to smoke in the following areas (in addition to the areas approved for all smokers listed above).

1. The area in front of the Chapel windows, at the south facade of the hospital.
2. The area on the south side of the Cancer Treatment Center, at the benches.
3. The area outside and to the north and west of the entrance to the Phelps Outpatient Center at the benches.
4. For ED patients only, behind the Emergency Department.