



NEWS

ANTELOPE VALLEY'S
HEALTHCARE
NEWS RESOURCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Triggs
Office: 661-949-5530 Cell: 661-433-9543
julie.triggs@avhospital.org

ANTELOPE VALLEY HOSPITAL TO GO TOBACCO-FREE ON NOVEMBER 19, 2009

(LANCASTER, CA – October 20, 2009) —Antelope Valley Hospital (AVH) will celebrate the Great America Smokeout on November 19, 2009 by eliminating tobacco use on its campus. Any form of tobacco including cigarettes, cigars and smokeless tobacco will no longer be permitted on the AVH campus. This will promote the health and safety of patients, employees and visitors alike.

“As entire cities like Chicago become tobacco-free, so will Antelope Valley Hospital,” says Edward Mirzabegian, AVH Chief Executive Officer. “Tobacco-free environments promote healing, lessen complications after surgery and benefit patients, healthcare providers and hospital visitors.”

Because smoking is the number one cause of preventable death and disease, AVH will continue to offer cessation aids to incoming patients. Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) such as patches and lozenges will be offered to patients to help ease the effects of nicotine withdrawal while they are in the care of AVH. The ultimate goal is to provide the support and tools necessary for patients to be successful in eliminating tobacco use.

“Although quitting is difficult for smokers, once they quit they will reap the benefits of living a tobacco-free life,” says Doddanna Krishna, M.D., FACP, FCCP, President of Medical Staff at AVH. “Patients and employees should try their best to take advantage of the opportunity to learn the successful methods and tips to quit and utilize the cessation resources available through AVH.”

AVH has already begun offering employees smoking cessation support in the form of classes and aids. Nicotine replacement therapy is available for any employee who wishes to begin a tobacco-free life. Since smoking and using tobacco will not be allowed inside any vehicle parked on the AVH campus, guests and employees will be

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directed off campus should they need to continue the immediate use of tobacco products.

About Antelope Valley Hospital

Celebrating more than 50 years of caring for the community, Antelope Valley Hospital, a facility of Antelope Valley Healthcare District, is a non-profit, 420-bed hospital that was founded in 1955. The hospital is dedicated to providing quality care and services to everyone in the Antelope Valley. AV Hospital is located at 1600 West Avenue J in Lancaster, California. For further information, please visit www.avhospital.org or call 661-949-5000.

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