



NEWS

ANTELOPE VALLEY'S
HEALTHCARE
NEWS RESOURCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

(LANCASTER, CA – November 13, 2009) —Antelope Valley Hospital (AVH) is preparing to 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.

“There has been a lot of positive feedback from employees, the medical staff and the community in regards to our decision to go tobacco-free this month,” says Edward Mirzabegian, AVH Chief Executive Officer. “This is another way we can better serve the Antelope Valley community and promote healthy lifestyles.”

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.

“Research shows that smokers often try to quit several times before they are successful,” says Doddanna Krishna, M.D., FACP, FCCP, and President of Medical Staff at AVH. “As medical providers we are aware of the difficulty involved in quitting tobacco and are prepared to help and support our patients and employees should they decide to begin tobacco-free lives.”

AVH has already offered employees smoking cessation support in the form of classes and aids. Since smoking and using tobacco will not be allowed inside any vehicle parked on the AVH campus, guests and employees will be directed off campus should they need to continue the immediate use of tobacco products. AVH also hosts

Nicotine Anonymous support groups. Visit our web site at www.avhospital.org for more information.

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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