

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: June 6, 2007

Contact: BryanLGH Medical Center: Suzanne McMasters, 402-481-8674
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital: Molly Nance, 402-483-9572
Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center: Jo Miller, 402-219-7061

Lincoln hospitals announce plans for tobacco-free facilities and campuses

Lincoln, NE – Effective January 1, 2008, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, BryanLGH Medical Center, and Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center will implement tobacco-free policies for all facility campuses. This means that tobacco use will not be allowed inside hospital buildings, as well as parking lots, parking garages, tenant-occupied offices and adjoining grounds. The new policy will apply to all individuals coming to the hospital campuses, including patients, family members and visitors, employees, volunteers, students, medical staff, vendors and tenants. The hospitals' outdoor designated smoking areas will close on December 31, 2007.

The only exception being made among the nearly 40 individual facilities and campuses is with patients of the BryanLGH Independence Center, which serves individuals working to overcome addiction. While these patients receive tobacco cessation information as part of their treatment, few choose this option during their hospitalization.

“As healthcare providers, we know that good health and health care do not include the use of tobacco products,” said Craig Ames, President and COO of BryanLGH Medical Center. “By implementing new policies that establish tobacco free campuses, we will create a better workplace for our employees and a more conducive environment for patient healing and recovery.”

“We are pleased to present this jointly to our community, ensuring a healthy environment for our patients and their families, employees, visitors, volunteers and business associates,” said Marsha Lommel, President and CEO of Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.

Each hospital is following the same basic policy with minor adjustments for their specific sites. While employees who use tobacco products will not be required to quit, the hospitals' hope the new policy will provide incentive for tobacco users to quit for improved wellness.

“All three hospitals have tobacco cessation programs available for employees and we will spend the upcoming months communicating the new policy and helping everyone get ready for the implementation,” added Bob Lanik, President and CEO of Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center.

The hospitals have notified their employees, physicians, volunteers, students, business partners and tenants about the upcoming policy change. More communication will continue to these groups as the policy implementation date nears.

The three Lincoln hospitals are joining hundreds of other hospitals across Nebraska and throughout the country that are moving to tobacco-free campus policies to provide a healthier hospital environment.

###



+ CATHOLIC HEALTH
INITIATIVES

Saint Elizabeth
Regional Medical Center
