

# **Ampla Health a Tobacco/Smoke Free Environment**

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

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### **Why is Ampla Health becoming a smoke-free campus?**

Ampla Health is committed to providing a healthy working environment and recognizes the increasing weight of scientific evidence that smoking is harmful not only to the active smoker but also to the "passive" smoker who is exposed to others' smoke. The purpose of the tobacco/smoke free environment policy is to reduce harm from the use of tobacco products secondhand smoke, provide an environment that encourages persons to be smoke-free, and establish a campus culture of wellness.

### **When does the smoke-free policy start?**

February 14, 2013

### **Whom does this policy affect?**

This policy applies to all employees, students, and volunteers.

### **Does the policy apply to every Ampla Health Campus?**

Smoking is prohibited in all Ampla Health buildings and indoor facilities, campus grounds and walkways, all campus-owned vehicles, and all areas where non-smokers cannot avoid environmental smoke.

### **Why is Ampla Health concerned about smoking?**

Ampla Health has a responsibility to its employees, students, and volunteers to provide a safe and healthful environment. Research findings show that tobacco use in general, including smoking and breathing secondhand smoke, constitute a significant health hazard. In addition to causing direct health hazards, smoking contributes to costs in other ways, including potential fire damage, cleaning and maintenance costs, and costs associated with absenteeism, health care, and medical insurance.

### **Will there be cessation programs available for employees, students, and volunteers?**

Yes. A study completed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Management of Nicotine Addiction notes that 70% of current smokers want to quit smoking. With that in mind, Ampla Health is committed to providing assistance to employees, students, and volunteers who want to quit using tobacco.

### **How will Ampla Health address compliance of this policy?**

The process of achieving a smoke-free environment takes time and patience. Ampla Health believes that self-enforcement will become part of the norm and the value of adherence will become recognized as it has with seat belt laws. Employees, students, and volunteers will come to recognize the value of this policy and will choose to adhere. Adherence with this policy is the shared responsibility and the right of all Ampla Health employees, students, and volunteers. The success of this policy depends upon the courtesy, respect, and cooperation of users and non-users of tobacco products. Any member of the Ampla Health community may respectfully ask individuals to comply with this policy and/or report non-adherence when appropriate. Anyone who observes a possible violation may inform the individual of the smoke-free policy and offer an information card. Initial violations of Tobacco/Smoke Free Environment policy will result in a verbal reminder of the policy by a member of management. This will include re-education about the policy, its enforcement, and available smoking cessation options. Subsequent violations of the policy will be handled according to Ampla Health's corrective action policy.