



Media Release

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Hospital District Supports “Smoke Free” Policy

The Harris County Hospital District fully supports the “Smoke Free” policy adopted by the Texas Medical Center (TMC) and applauds its efforts to prevent disease and improve the health of our community. To help TMC achieve this goal, the Hospital District will continue fostering a smoke-free environment within our facilities and will continue educating employees, students, and patients and their families on the dangers of tobacco use and second-hand smoke.

“We support any move that will help better the overall health and wellness of our patients and the entire community,” said George Masi, HCHD chief operating officer. “The Hospital District has already taken steps in making ours a healthier environment for all who visit.”

Ben Taub and Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospitals, as well as Quentin Mease Community Hospital and all of HCHD’s Community Health Centers, have designated smoking areas away from building entrances and key points of passage. Smoking is only allowed in these isolated areas.

Additionally, the Hospital District offers patients smoking cessation programs at each of its 12 community health centers. And it plans on implementing these and other types of support and education programs for staff who smoke.

The Harris County Hospital District is the public healthcare system for the nation’s third most populous county and it provides health care for more than 300,000 Harris County residents. It encompasses Ben Taub and Lyndon B. Johnson general hospitals; Quentin Mease Community Hospital; 12 community health centers, a dental center, seven school-based clinics, 13 homeless shelter clinics and four mobile health units.

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