

TOBACCO FREE POLICY

PURPOSE

This Tobacco Free Policy establishes guidelines for Geisinger Health System (GHS)* employees and others to define the tobacco free environment. The hazards of tobacco are well known within the medical community. Tobacco Use is the number one cause of preventable illness and death across the nation. Allowing Tobacco Use in and around GHS Property does not portray GHS as a health care leader and does not promote a healthy environment for our patients, visitors, or employees.

PERSONS AFFECTED

This policy applies to all employees, members of the medical staff, students, volunteers, contractors, visitors, patients as well as any other individual on GHS Property.

PERSONS EXCLUDED

In accordance with Marworth Policy - all patients and visitors of Marworth will be exempt.

POLICY

Tobacco Use and the sale of Tobacco Products is prohibited in and on all GHS Property except Marworth. This Tobacco Free Policy is intended to improve the health of GHS employees, patients, visitor and the community by providing quality health care that meets the needs of all people. Assisting employees, patients, visitors and the community to be tobacco free is consistent with the GHS mission to enhance the health of the community through quality care.

DEFINITIONS

GHS Property - inside and outside of all GHS owned or leased facilities, including hospitals, health centers, business and physician offices, common areas, sidewalks and parking lots, and GHS vehicles.

Line of Sight - includes locations where an employee, member of the medical staff, students, volunteers and contractors can be seen from any entrance to GHS Property.

Tobacco Products - cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and any other type of tobacco product (cigars, pipes, etc.) and electronic cigarettes and any and all devices intended to simulate smoking.

Tobacco Free - Tobacco Use and all Tobacco Products (without limitation) are prohibited.

Tobacco Use - the act of using any Tobacco Product in, on or in the Line of Sight of any GHS Property, including (without limitation) chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes and the act of smoking or carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other smoking material or device.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Assistant Director Wellness oversees this process. Compliance with the policy is the responsibility of all employees.

PROCEDURE

1. Tobacco Use and the sale of Tobacco Products are expressly prohibited in and on all owned or leased GHS Property. Patients and visitors of Marworth are exempt.
2. Tobacco Use is prohibited in all GHS vehicles.
3. In addition, Tobacco Use is not permitted in the Line-of-Sight of patient/visitor entrances on any GHS Property. GHS is committed to maintaining and improving the health of others. All employees, members of the medical staff, students, volunteers and contractors would be giving a contradictory message by engaging in Tobacco Use.
4. Signs will be posted at strategic locations around GHS Property to notify employees, patients and visitors of this policy.
5. Patients and visitors will be informed of this policy upon admission and during visitation times.
6. No physician or other GHS provider may write orders allowing a patient to engage in Tobacco Use on any GHS Property.
7. Department supervisors and managers are expected to educate employees about this policy and ensure that this policy is implemented and enforced.
8. All GHS employees, members of the medical staff and volunteers are expected to communicate this policy to any individual engaging in Tobacco Use in violation of this policy and request that any such person stop such Tobacco Use.
9. Certain religious groups may request to burn tobacco as part of their religious/spiritual practices. This will be allowed in the hospital chapel only with prior approval of Spiritual Care. Spiritual Care must be present during the burning ceremony.
10. Employees, volunteers and contractors will not be permitted to loiter on or around the property of surrounding neighbors while smoking - potentially causing a deterioration of good relations between Geisinger and surrounding neighbors.
11. Compliance of this policy is expected and employees who violate this policy will be subject to the current disciplinary procedures.