



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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(December 2019) Hospitals across Kansas are demonstrating their commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Kansans by restricting the use of tobacco products on their campuses and facilities.

For decades, hospitals have banned smoking inside their facilities and during the last ten years, many hospitals began implementing tobacco-free policies. Hospitals in Kansas continue to take steps to ban the use of all tobacco products and expanding the areas where their use will not be allowed.

Tobacco is the cause of death for more than 4,400 Kansans every year and is the root cause of many illnesses and lost productivity. Tobacco use in and around hospitals poses health and safety risks for patients, employees and visitors. In Kansas, tobacco use accounts for more than \$1.12 billion in health care costs each year.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 219 member facilities, of which 123 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA's vision is Optimal Health for Kansas.

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