



Cowlitz County Health Department

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News Release

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Positive Changes

Tobacco free campus at Cowlitz County Health and Human Services

LONGVIEW, WA- the Cowlitz County Health and Human Services Departments will be a tobacco-free campus beginning April 30, 2010.

This new policy protects the health, wellness, safety and comfort of employees, volunteers, and visitors of the Health and Human Services Departments. "Tobacco use costs lives and money, and secondhand smoke puts people at much higher risk of serious health problems like lung cancer and heart disease," states Secretary of Health Mary Selecky.

"The Mission of the Cowlitz County Health Department is to work to ensure the health of its communities and environment through the promotion of health and the prevention of disease. We feel we are taking a positive step forward to support our mission" states Jessica Bell, Tobacco Program Coordinator.

Many state agencies, hospitals, colleges and private businesses have moved toward tobacco free campuses and many others are following suit. Peace Health, Kaiser and Lower Columbia Community College are locations within our community who already have tobacco-free campuses.

The new policy prohibits tobacco use on all Health and Human Services Departments property. Tobacco receptacles and ashtrays will be removed from the premise before the policy takes effect.

To view details of the policy please visit the Cowlitz County Health and Human Services Departments' home page at <http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/health/>.

There are many individuals who will be affected by this change and Cowlitz County Health and Human Services understands that the transition may be difficult. If you or someone you know would like to quit tobacco, the Washington State Quit line is a free resource for all Washington residents, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-877-2NO-FUME in Spanish). Additional information and resources are available at www.quitline.com/

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