



Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation  
Corporation des sciences de la santé de l'Atlantique

## AHSC Smoke Free Property Policy

### Frequently Asked Questions

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#### **What is the Smoke Free Property Policy?**

Policy Statement: Smoking is prohibited in and on all AHSC owned, operated or funded property, facilities and vehicles. Any persons acting for, or on behalf of AHSC will not facilitate patient/client smoking.

#### **Why does AHSC have this policy?**

As a health care organization, we must work to protect patients, clients, staff, physicians, volunteers and the general public from the harmful effects of smoking and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke while in or on AHSC owned or operated premises.

#### **What is the effective date of the policy?**

The Smoke Free Property Policy will be in effect as of Monday, February 25, 2008.

#### **Do other health organizations have smoke-free policies?**

Yes. Places like the River Valley Health Authority in Fredericton and the South-East Hospital Corporation in Moncton have these kinds of smoke free policies.

#### **Are patients, residents and staff expected to quit smoking?**

No. The policy is not about forcing people to quit but rather, is asking people not to smoke while on AHSC property. If people choose to quit, AHSC has programs to help them.

#### **Does the policy apply to everyone?**

Yes, the policy applies to all staff, physicians, volunteers, patients, visitors, clergy, students, contractors and other service providers. The only exceptions to this policy include:

- Residents within designated areas in long-term care facilities owned or operated by AHSC (e.g. Ridgewood Veterans Wing)
- Ceremonial use (e.g. sweet grass) in a defined location or clinical use
- Clinical use (prescribed by a physician)
- At the Saint John Regional Hospital in the two designated areas for patients and employees. One area is located in the public parking lot the other area is near the staff entrance.

#### **Why are there designated smoking areas at the Saint John Regional Hospital?**

Due to the size of the Saint John Regional Hospital property, it is very difficult for individuals to leave the property in order to smoke (as is the requirement at all other properties). Therefore, two areas have been designated – away from building entrances and walkways – for people to smoke.

### **What is happening with the 4 D North Smoking Deck at the Saint John Regional Hospital?**

The smoking deck will be closing permanently, effective Monday, February 25. Patients, visitors, and public must smoke in one of the two designated smoking areas.

### **How will I know where smoking is allowed?**

Each AHSC site has unique property lines. In all sites and facilities, other than the SJRH, you must leave the property – AHSC property ends where the property meets city sidewalks or city streets. Maps will be posted at the SJRH to direct you to the two designated smoking areas.

### **Does the policy include vehicles?**

Although AHSC's policy is comprehensive, at this point in time it does not extend to preventing people from smoking in privately owned vehicles.

### **What happens if I smoke while on AHSC property?**

Visitors and outpatients who fail to comply with this policy may be directed to leave hospital/facility property by the individual in charge of the area. If required, Safety Service or the Facility Administrator/designate at each facility may be contacted for assistance.

Inpatients who fail to comply with this policy shall have all smoking materials confiscated by the individual in charge of the area. Confiscated smoking materials shall be retained on the nursing unit and returned to the patient on discharge. The Clinical Tobacco Intervention Strategy will be discussed with the inpatient.

Employees who continue to violate the policy may be progressively disciplined up to and including dismissal. Any disciplinary action will be taken by the manager, in consultation with a Human Resources Advisor.

### **Are there ashtrays around AHSC property to get rid of smoking materials?**

There will be no ashtrays around AHSC property as smoking is not permitted. We are asking people who smoke off of the property to find a way to safely dispose of their smoking materials, including butts, without littering on neighboring property.

### **What assistance is available for smokers?**

Call the Smokers' Help Line at 1-877-513-5333 for professional assistance or speak to your family physician.

For AHSC Employees:

- Nicotine Replacement Therapy will be available for AHSC employees beginning March 1. Please contact Employee Health at 648-6618 for more information.
- AHSC Employee Assistance Program – Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Contact information can be found on LINKS.
- Smoking Cessation Programs:
  - Employee Health - 648-6618 - Program beginning March 1, 2008
  - Ridgewood Addictions - 674-4368 - Program for employees beginning April 1, 2008