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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional To Go Tobacco Free  
Hospital Policy Will Take Effect January 1, 2008**

Beginning January 1, 2008, St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center will implement a tobacco-free campus. The health hazards of smoking, including being subjected to secondary passive smoke are well recognized. As a courtesy to our patients and as a role model for promoting a healthy lifestyle, there will be no smoking or other use of tobacco products by patients, visitors, staff, physicians, volunteers, tenants, or contractors in any buildings, on the grounds, in all parking areas, and in all leased or rented space where services are provided by SLMVRMC.

"We believe this program will not only enhance the health and well-being of our patients and staff, but the community as a whole," explained Bill Southwick, Tobacco Free Workplace Coordinator for St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. "Many hospitals have already made this commitment," Southwick continues.

Patients will be offered information, nicotine replacement treatment, and tobacco cessation assistance as appropriate. Hospital employees have been offered advanced notice of the policy change to help prepare for the January implementation date, along with information and referrals to resources to assist those choosing to quit smoking or using tobacco products.

The hospital is committed to informing patients and visitors of the policy at the time of admission and through campus signage, printed materials, verbal notification, and information posted on the hospital website, [www.stlukesonline.org](http://www.stlukesonline.org).

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(News Editors: For more information call Jody Tremblay, Director of Community Relations at 737-2943.)