
UConn Health Center Campus 100% Smoke-free Starting Nov. 18

2010 Great American Smokeout Marks Launch of New Policy

FARMINGTON, CONN. – The University of Connecticut Health Center will become an entirely smoke-free campus starting **Thursday, Nov. 18**.

Smoking has not been allowed inside the Health Center's John Dempsey Hospital since 1990. State law prohibits smoking in any state building and within 50 feet of an entrance to a state building. The new policy prohibits tobacco use of any kind anywhere on campus grounds.

"We are going smoke-free, and we are doing so proudly," says [Dr. Cato T. Laurencin](#), UConn Health Center vice president for health affairs and medical school dean. "Smoking and second-hand smoke are widely recognized as the most important causes of preventable disease. As a leader in health care, we have a responsibility to promote a healthy environment."

The smoke-free environment policy applies to employees and anyone else who has business on Health Center grounds, including patients, visitors, volunteers and vendors. The launch of the new Health Center tobacco use policy coincides with the American Cancer Society's 2010 Great American Smokeout.

In addition to establishing a smoking cessation clinic for employees, the Health Center has planned several events in the coming weeks that are free and open to the public.

- **Monday, Nov. 1, noon to 1 p.m.**, Onyiuke Dining Room
A "Lunch and Learn" discussion of the smoking cessation resources available at the Health Center, including a number of research studies offering free smoking cessation counseling and treatment
- **Wednesday, Nov. 10, noon to 1 p.m.**, Onyiuke Dining Room
Presentation by the smoking cessation group Smoke Stoppers
- **Thursday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, Food Court
Great American Smokeout celebration

More about the UConn Health Center's transition to a smoke-free campus, including information on available smoking cessation studies, is available at <http://cleanair.uchc.edu>.

The University of Connecticut Health Center includes the schools of medicine and dental medicine, the UConn Medical Group, University Dentists, and John Dempsey Hospital. Founded in 1961, the Health Center pursues a mission of providing outstanding health care education in an environment of exemplary

patient care, research and public service. More information about the UConn Health Center is available at www.uchc.edu.

Note: News professionals are invited to visit the **Health Center Today** news page (<http://today.uchc.edu>) for regularly updated news and feature stories, photos, media stories, news releases, and archives.