*Hospital Letterhead*  Press Release for Launch

Contact- Spokesperson

**For Immediate Release**

**[Hospital Name] is Going Tobacco-Free**

**Location.** As of [Implementation Date], [hospital name] will be tobacco-free. Tobacco use of any kind will not be permitted on the hospital property. This includes the removal of all designated smoking areas outside [hospital name] where patients, visitors and employees currently use tobacco products.

[Hospital name] has joined a state-wide Massachusetts hospital initiative sponsored by the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA) to go tobacco-free. We are committed to the health and safety of patients and employees, and allowing the use of tobacco products on and around our facility goes against the healing mandate in our mission.

Tobacco use in Massachusetts is responsible for more than 8,000 deaths annually and is a major cause of chronic diseases and premature death. Using tobacco product on a hospital campus poses a significant health risk to our employees, patients and visitors.

[Hospital name] is not demanding that tobacco users quit, but this initiative supports our ongoing commitment to healthcare quality and safety. Cessation support will be available for those who wish to take the first step toward being tobacco-free.