

VA



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of Veterans Affairs

Press Release

Office of Public Affairs
VA Northern California
Health Care System

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA NorCal Health Care Facilities to go Smoke-Free October 1

SACRAMENTO — [VA Northern California Health Care System](#) will join VA health care facilities nationwide in implementing a new policy restricting smoking by VA staff, patients, visitors, volunteers, contractors, and vendors at its health care facilities beginning Oct. 1, 2019.

“This policy is in keeping with our core mission: providing high-quality, compassionate care to our Veterans,” said VA NorCal Director David Stockwell. “This is a significant step toward ensuring our facilities offer environments where healing can best occur.”

The new smoke-free policy applies to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and electronic nicotine-delivery systems (ENDS), such as e-cigarettes, vape pens, or e-cigars. Although VA has historically permitted smoking in designated areas, there is overwhelming evidence that smoking and exposure to secondhand and thirdhand smoke create significant medical risks.

VA NorCal offers extensive resources and programs to assist Veterans in their smoke-free journey. For more information visit <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/quit-tobacco/>.

For more information about implementation of the policy at VA NorCal health care facilities, please contact Will Martin at 916-843-9247 or William.Martin6@va.gov.

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