

March 29, 2018

## Avow Hospice Joins the Growing Trend of Businesses Going Tobacco Free

*Avow Hospice adds ENDS language to their policy and begins providing cessation resources to employees.*



**Contact:**

Andrea McKinney  
Andrea.McKinney@flhealth.gov  
239-252-8049

**Naples, Fla.** – Avow Hospice, a palliative care institution with more than 200 employees, has joined the ever-growing number of employers that have not only adopted a tobacco free grounds policy but have also included language regarding Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) in their policies. With the implementation of their tobacco free policy and the addition of ENDS language Avow Hospice has further enhanced its commitment to support its employees' efforts to cease the use of tobacco.

“Smoking tobacco is the single most preventable cause of disease and death. It has not only been shown to be a health risk for serious diseases but also exposes individuals to secondhand smoke,” said Nina Garcia, Tobacco Prevention Program Manager at the Florida Department of Health in Collier County. “Seeing that more worksites are implementing policies such as these validates that our outreach efforts are truly working and that the community is becoming more receptive to these policies”.

As a part of their tobacco free grounds initiative, Avow Hospice began providing on-site cessation classes to their employees. Classes began on January 9, 2018 and continued every Tuesday through February 13, 2018.

Through Tobacco Free Florida's Quit Your Way program, Avow Hospice has also been providing its employees with free nicotine replacement patches and additional resources.

To learn more about Avow visit <https://avowcares.org/>.

For more information on how to make your business tobacco free, contact Tobacco Free Collier at (239) 252-6852.

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### About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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### **About Tobacco Free Florida**

The department's Tobacco Free Florida campaign is a statewide cessation and prevention campaign funded by Florida's tobacco settlement fund. Since the program began in 2007, more than 188,000 Floridians have successfully quit using one of Tobacco Free Florida's free tools and services. There are now approximately 451,000 fewer adult smokers in Florida than there was 10 years ago, and the state has saved \$17.7 billion in health care costs.<sup>1</sup> To learn more about Tobacco Free Florida's Quit Your Way services, visit [www.tobaccofreeflorida.com](http://www.tobaccofreeflorida.com) or follow the campaign on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida](https://www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida) or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla](https://www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla).

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<sup>1</sup>Mann, Nathan M, Nonnemaker, James M., Thompson, Jesse. "Smoking-Attributable Health Care Costs in Florida and Potential Health Care Cost Savings Associated with Reductions in Adult Smoking Prevalence." 2016.