

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2019

San Antonio VA Medical Center to Go Smoke-Free

South Texas Veterans Health Care System is going smoke-free on October 1, 2019.

San Antonio, TX – South Texas Veterans Health Care System will become smoke-free beginning October 1 as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) commitment to a smoke-free health care environment for patients, visitors, volunteers, vendors and employees.

Smoking will no longer be permitted at the Audie L. Murphy and Kerrville Campuses, all Outpatient and Community Based Outpatient Clinics. This new policy applies to all cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and any other combustion of tobacco and non-Federal Drug Administration approved electronic nicotine delivery systems including e-cigarettes, vape pens, or e-cigars.

“Although VA has historically permitted smoking in designated areas, creating a smoke-free healthy healing environment is one of the best things we can do for our patients and employees,” said Christopher Sandles, Medical Center Director/CEO. “Implementation of this policy will help improve the health and overall quality of life for our patients and employees,” said Sandles.

South Texas Veterans Health Care System offers smoking cessation services for employees and Veterans interested in quitting smoking by contacting the Smoking/Tobacco Use Cessation at (210) 617-5300 ext. 16765. They may also visit the following link for smoke free resources at www.smokefree.gov or follow Twitter handle for the latest news and tips about smoking at *Twitter: CDCTobaccoFree*.

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