

# Smoke-Free Lodging:

## *Good for Health, Good for Business*



Decreasing smoking rates and increasing awareness of the harmful impact of secondhand smoke have made smoke-free spaces the norm. The majority of places where people work and recreate are now smoke-free. In addition, most homes are also smoke-free. As a result, people expect smoke-free spaces and readily notice the telltale odor of secondhand smoke. Because of the way that air transfers inside, the only way to achieve a truly smoke-free environment is through policy that covers *all* indoor areas rather than having designated smoking-permitted areas.

### Secondhand Smoke Can Easily Transfer from Room to Room.

- ⇒ Cigarette smoke contains a number of gases that expand through small cracks and crevices between walls, floors, and ceilings as well as around pipes, electrical conduits, and other structural devices. Secondhand smoke travels easily into non-smoking rooms through these openings. <sup>1</sup>
- ⇒ Non-smoking hotel rooms often share ventilation systems with smoking-permitted rooms—increasing the transfer of smoke from room to room. <sup>1</sup>
- ⇒ Linens can carry secondhand smoke particles and smell from a smoking room to a non-smoking room. Secondhand smoke residue can stay in fabrics for a couple of months, even after they have been washed. <sup>2</sup>
- ⇒ As a result, a smoke-free room in a hotel that allows smoking in some rooms may not be truly free of secondhand smoke and customers who are expecting a smoke-free room may be dissatisfied with their stay.



Hotel chains such as Marriott and Westin have already gone 100% smoke-free!

*"...feedback [about the smoke-free policy] has been overwhelmingly positive. We have not seen any economic loss as a result of this policy."* <sup>3</sup>

--Steve Lampa,  
Senior VP of Operations at Marriott, Inc.

### Smoke-Free Policies Make Good Business Sense.

- ⇒ **The vast majority (89%) of hotel guests prefer a 100% smoke-free hotel environment.** <sup>4</sup>
- ⇒ 100% smoke-free policies reduce the chance of fire. <sup>5</sup>
- ⇒ Smoke-free policies decrease cleaning and maintenance costs. Secondhand smoke residue can be very difficult to remove from fabrics, carpets, walls, and ceilings. Cigarette burns can ruin carpeting, furniture and other fixtures. <sup>5</sup>

## Secondhand Smoke is a Health Hazard.

According to the 2006 US Surgeon General's Report on Secondhand Smoke, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*:

- ⇒ There is **NO safe level of exposure to secondhand Smoke**.
- ⇒ In indoor spaces, only 100% smoke-free policies effectively protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke.

*"Making a hotel smoke-free is the right thing to do because it protects guests and employees from secondhand smoke."* <sup>6</sup>

--Joe McInerney,

President, American Hotel & Lodging Association

## Smoke-Free Policies Protect Your Employees and Guests.

Secondhand smoke can linger in a room for up to three hours after the smoking has occurred—employees who clean rooms are not only exposed to this smoke in the air but also to the toxic smoke residue that forms on all surfaces. <sup>1</sup>

## Ventilation Doesn't Eliminate the Problem.

According to the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, the installation of ventilation systems is not a suitable substitute for smoke-free policies. Even with ventilation systems, secondhand smoke poses a health risk. <sup>2</sup>



## *If You Are Thinking About Going Smoke Free, We Can Help!*

The Smoke-Free Lodging, Dakota County program is here to help you adopt a 100% smoke-free policy, implement the policy, or think about transitioning. We have a variety of **free** resources available such as:

- ⇒ Model smoke-free policy
- ⇒ "How-to" guide for adopting a smoke-free policy
- ⇒ Smoke-free signs
- ⇒ Promotion of your smoke-free business

Please contact Bernadette Chlebeck with questions:  
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