



JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

dedicated to the prevention of disease and promotion of wellness for our community.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS SMOKE FREE DINING GUIDE

(OLATHE, KS – **DECEMBER 24, 2007**) Johnson County Health Department is pleased to offer a “Smoke Free Dining Guide”. This dining guide was created to assist Johnson County residents in finding the many new smoke-free options now available in our community.

In February 2006 Johnson County residents participated in a social behaviors survey, funded by several Johnson County Cities and County Government. Its intent was to determine public opinion regarding smoking restrictions. The results of that survey showed:

- 79% of county residents choose non-smoking seating in restaurants
- 35% of county residents would dine out in full service restaurants more often if smoking restrictions were implemented
- 27% of county residents would visit bars and taverns more often if smoking restrictions were implemented

“Secondhand smoke is a proven health hazard–there is no safe level of exposure,” states Leon Vinci, Health Director, Johnson County Health Department. “Soon, most Johnson Countians will be able to enjoy a night out on the town without negatively affecting their health. The Johnson County Smoke Free Dining Guide lists smoke free restaurants and bars throughout the community.”

Since this survey was conducted many Johnson County cities have implemented smoking restrictions. Roeland Park, Fairway, and Olathe have had significant smoking restrictions in place for more than a year, while Shawnee, Leawood, Lenexa and Overland Park will implement new restrictions on January 2, 2008. Westwood will follow with smoking restrictions sometime this spring.

For Johnson County smoke-free selections: <http://health.jocogov.org/>

For Metro-Wide Smoke-free Dining: www.cleanairkc.com

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