



## JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## GET READY JOHNSON COUNTY TO ENJOY THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS

(OLATHE, KS – **DECEMBER 12, 2007**) January 2, 2008 marks a significant date for health in our community. On that date, Overland Park, Leawood, Lenexa, and Shawnee (with some exceptions) will join other cities in Johnson County by eliminating, or greatly restricting exposure to second hand smoke for residents in their communities.

Fairway became the first smoke-free community more than two years ago in November 2005. Two weeks later, Prairie Village passed an ordinance that protects non-hospitality workers, which will expand to include all workers after the six surrounding cities pass a similar ordinance. Roeland Park passed a comprehensive ordinance in April 2006 and Olathe passed an ordinance to become the state's largest smoke-free city in November 2006.

Thanks to dedicated community volunteers and elected officials who were responsive to community demands, by Jan. 2, 2008 more than 85% Johnson County residents will be protected from second hand smoke in both work and community environments. **Below is a map of Johnson County showing the ordinance protected areas and a listing of local ordinances.**

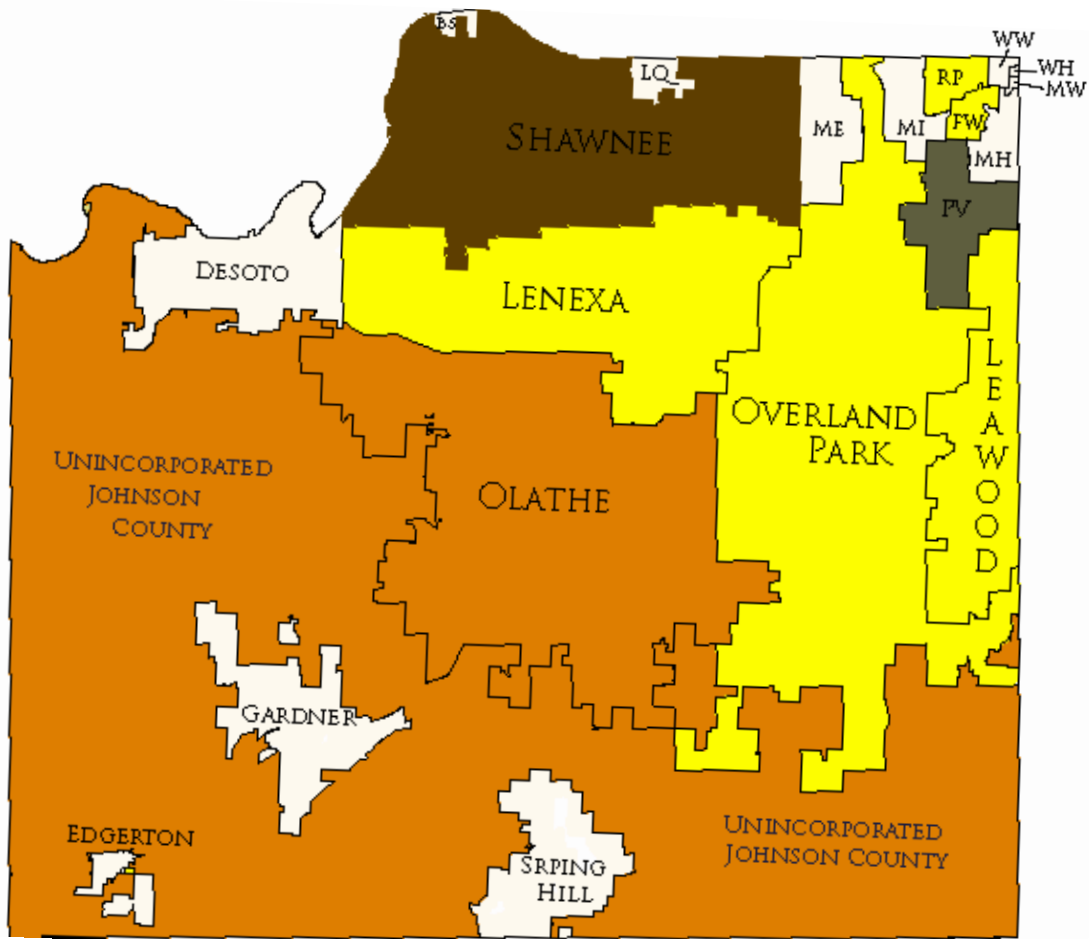
"Second hand smoke is first and foremost a public health issue" states Leon Vinci, Director of Public Health, Johnson County Health Department. "There are NO SAFE LEVELS of second hand smoke. Congratulations to these cities for putting health first!"

#### Benefits of Going Smoke-Free

- Smoke-free ordinances help protect both workers and the public from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.
- Smoke-free ordinances encourage smokers to quit, helping reduce tobacco-related healthcare costs.
- Teenagers who work in smoke-free workplaces are less likely to start smoking.

#### Second Hand Smoke in the Workplace

- Levels of second hand smoke in restaurants and bars were found to be 2 to 6 times higher than in office workplaces.
- Employees who work in smoke-filled businesses have a 20-30% higher risk of heart attack and lung cancer.
- Minorities, youth and young adults are less likely to be covered by smoke-free policies because they comprise a larger percentage of service industry jobs.



- Comprehensive Smoke Free Ordinance
- Smoke Free Ordinance with Private Club Exemption
- Smoke Free Ordinance with Bar Exemption (<33% food Sales)
- Smoke Free Office Buildings\*
- No Action

\*Restaurants and Bars will become smoke free after 6 surrounding cities pass a similar ordinance

City	Includes	Exemptions	Effective Date
Fairway	All workplaces, restaurants, bars	Up to 25% of hotel & motels rooms	January 1, 2006
Independence	All workplaces, restaurants, bars	Up to 20% of hotel & motels rooms, private rooms in nursing homes	March 17, 2006

Johnson County	All workplaces, restaurants, bars; 10 feet from doorway	Private clubs	April 1, 2007
Kansas City, MO	All office workplaces	Restaurants, bars become smoke free when 85% of metro population is covered by a similar ordinance	May 30, 2005
Leawood	All workplaces, restaurants, bars; 10 feet from doorway	Tobacco shops	January 2, 2008
Lee's Summit	All workplaces, restaurants, bars;	Not-for-profit private clubs, private rooms in nursing homes, tobacco shops	March 7, 2007
Lenexa	All workplaces, restaurants bars; 10 feet from doorway	Tobacco shops	January 2, 2008
Olathe	All workplaces, restaurants, bars; 10 feet from doorway	Private clubs, tobacco shops, up to 25% of hotel & motels rooms	November 16, 2006
Overland Park	All workplaces, restaurants, bars; 10 feet from doorway	Tobacco shops	January 2, 2008
Prairie Village	All office workplaces	Restaurants, bars become smoke free when 6 surrounding cities pass a similar ordinance	January 1, 2006
Roeland Park	All workplaces, restaurants, bars	Up to 25% of hotel & motels rooms	May 17, 2006
Shawnee	All workplaces, restaurants, bars and private clubs with more than 33% in food sales	Bars and private clubs with less than 33% food sales, tobacco shops, up to 25% of hotel and motel rooms	January 2, 2008

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