



# Valley Regional Hospital

## **Valley Regional Healthcare Becomes Smoke-Free**

(Claremont, 5/15/09) – Valley Regional Healthcare is going smoke-free on June 1, 2009. While an employee smoke-free policy was instituted two years ago, this initiative will eliminate all patient and visitor designated smoking areas on all campuses of Valley Regional Healthcare, whether owned or leased. Included in this policy are the medical practices of Valley Regional Primary Care Physicians in Newport, Associates in Medicine, Valley Regional Surgical Services and Orthopaedics in Claremont, Connecticut Valley Home Care and Connecticut Valley Child Care Center as well as Valley Regional Hospital.

VRH has joined many hospitals throughout New Hampshire and New England in an effort to become smoke-free. As a healthcare organization, VRH is committed to the health and safety of our employees and patients. VRH believes it has a responsibility to take a leadership role on this major health issues. VRH's decision to go smoke-free is not an attempt to "force" anyone to quit using tobacco products. Rather, the initiative is a concrete way we can demonstrate our ongoing commitment to health living.

VRH is asking for community support as we launch this health initiative on June 1, 2009.

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*Valley Regional Healthcare, operates Valley Regional Hospital, a critical access community hospital, Connecticut Valley Home Care and Hospice, Valley Regional Orthopaedics, Valley Regional Surgical Associates, Associates in Medicine, and Valley Regional Primary Care Physicians on Main Street in Newport.*