

Thank you to pharmacies that do not sell tobacco

We, members of Community Connections-Tobacco Free Lincoln County Coalition, are thrilled with the news that CVS Caremark Pharmacies will no longer sell tobacco products, beginning October 1, 2014. President Obama called the decision "a choice that will have a profoundly positive impact on the health of our country." We hope other national chains will soon follow their lead.

We also applaud the pharmacies in North Platte that do NOT sell tobacco products, and are not located in stores that sell tobacco. Thank you, Bill's U-Save Pharmacy, Depot Pharmacy, Omnicare Pharmacy serving long-term care facilities, Rx Express, Shopko Pharmacy and Westfield Pharmacy. We appreciate you for doing the right thing!

In their press release, CVS Caremark's CEO, Larry Merlo, said, "Cigarettes have no place in an environment where health care is being delivered," adding, "This is the right decision. . .as we evolve from a drugstore into a health-care company."

Their announcement came only days after the new Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health, which added to the list of known diseases caused by tobacco.

Tobacco use has dropped substantially in the 50 years since 1964, when the first Surgeon General's Report was released, but there is still work to do. Currently about 1,200 people die from tobacco related diseases every day in the United States. At the same time, 90 percent of adult tobacco users started when they were under the age of 18, usually getting their first cigarette or can of chew from older friends, or other social sources.

We applaud CVS and these local pharmacies, along with many local people who are helping to reduce the effects of tobacco on individuals, families, and society.

We can all work together for a healthy, comfortable community, with smoke-free homes and vehicles, and children who grow up to be adults free of tobacco addiction.

Community Connections - Tobacco Free Lincoln County Coalition
George Haws, coordinator

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