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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Longmont United Hospital and Facilities Become Tobacco Free
on February 14, 2008**

(Longmont, CO)

Longmont United Hospital announced that the hospital and all of its facilities and grounds will become Tobacco Free on February 14, 2008. As a healthcare institution dedicated to improving the health of its patients and community, Longmont United Hospital firmly supports a Tobacco Free environment at all of its facilities.

Harmful, serious health issues related to tobacco use are widely recognized today. According to the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tobacco-related deaths are now ranked as the 4th leading cause of mortality in the U.S.

As of February 14, 2008, use of any tobacco product will no longer be allowed on hospital-owned property, including parking lots.

“Longmont United Hospital is pleased to adopt the Tobacco Free policy. We recognize that having a Tobacco Free environment is key to better health for our patients and community,” stated Matt Hartzler, Vice President of Strategic Planning and Physician Services. Nationally, over 500 hospitals and clinics have adopted a Tobacco Free policy. Longmont United Hospital will join 9 other Colorado hospitals that will become Tobacco Free in 2008; as of November 1, 2007, there were eleven other Tobacco Free hospitals in Colorado.
