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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS  
COMMUNICATIONS

# NEWS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Sedgwick County Health Department Recognizes Healthy Lung Month**  
(Sedgwick County, Kansas) October is healthy lung month and the Sedgwick County Health Department wants to take the opportunity to remind parents that “children are watching.” Among high school students who participated in the 2007/2008 Kansas Youth Tobacco Survey, current smokers were twice as likely to live with someone who smoked than never smokers (55 percent versus 24 percent respectively). Current Kansas high school smokeless tobacco users were four times as likely to live with someone who used smokeless tobacco than students who never used smokeless tobacco (52 percent versus 13 percent respectively). Parents and family members can help reduce these statistics by quitting. A national study found that if both parents quit smoking, the child’s odds of daily smoking are reduced by 40 percent.

The Sedgwick County Health Department will be present at the Wichita Heights/Derby High School football game on Friday, October 31 at Heights High School, providing information on quitting to interested parties. This will be a joint effort between the Health Department, the American Lung Association and the American Cancer Society.

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“Every parent wants what is best for their kids,” says Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Tom Winters. “Tobacco should be no different. Even though it is a difficult addiction, parents who quit are putting their children first. This is the right thing to do.”

Parents who quit or never use tobacco not only set a good example for their children, they also increase their own life expectancy. It is estimated that 3,900 Kansans die every year from smoking-related diseases.

Celebrate Healthy Lung Month by quitting tobacco. The Sedgwick County Health Department is working to reduce tobacco use and its deadly effects. Health educators have information on how to help reduce tobacco use and help people who use tobacco quit. You can learn more or request a presentation by calling 660-7350. The **free** Kansas Tobacco Quitline 1-866-KAN-STOP (1-866-526-7867) is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Experienced quit coaches work with callers to prepare for a quit date and help them make a free personalized quit plan. All calls are confidential.

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