LTE Template – World AIDS Day (December 1, 2015)

Drafted November 6, 2015

Dear Editor,

Tuesday, December 1 is World AIDS Day, and this year the **(COALITION/NETWORK)** is doing our part by educating on the toll smoking takes on individuals with HIV.

Sadly, people living with HIV smoke about 2-3 times the national average, and typically have worse treatment outcomes than non-smokers. A few reasons for their poorer outcomes include **(TALK ABOUT HOW SMOKING CAN LEAD TO HIV-RELATED INFECTIONS. GIVE EXAMPLES FROM** [**https://www.aids.gov/hiv-aids-basics/staying-healthy-with-hiv-aids/taking-care-of-yourself/smoking-tobacco-use/**](https://www.aids.gov/hiv-aids-basics/staying-healthy-with-hiv-aids/taking-care-of-yourself/smoking-tobacco-use/)**).**

Smoking with HIV also increases the risk of other serious illnesses like **(GIVE EXAMPLES FROM SAME LINK)**.

**(PERSONALIZE DEPENDING ON WHO IS SUBMITTING. SUGGESTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE SUBMITTERS INCLUDE:**

* **A PHYSICIAN WHO TREATS HIV AND CAN TALK ABOUT HOW SMOKING ADDS AN UNNESSARY OBSTACLE FOR HIV TREATMENT**
* **AN INDIVIDUAL WITH HIV WHO USED TO OR CURRENTLY SMOKES OR THAT DOESN’T SMOKE AND CAN TALK ABOUT HOW IT WOULD MAKE MANAGING THEIR HIV MORE DIFFICULT**
* **A FRIEND/FAMILY MEMBER OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITH HIV WHO USED TO OR CURRENTLY SMOKES OR HAS HIV AND DOESN’T USE TOBACCO AT ALL**
* **NOTE: IF SUBMITTED BY ANY OF THESE THREE TYPES OF INDIVIDUALS, YOU CAN DELETE THE SECOND AND THIRD PARAGRAPHS OF THE TEMPLATE SINCE THOSE MESSAGES WILL HAVE MORE CREDIBILITY COMING FROM A PERSONAL STORY**
  + **IF YOU DON’T HAVE SOMEONE THAT CAN SPEAK FROM ONE OF THE PERSPECTIVES LISTED ABOVE, THEN INSTEAD FOCUS ON EMPATHISIZING AND SPEAK FROM THE HEART IN TALKING ABOUT WANTING HIV TO BE EASIER TO MANAGE.)**

Quitting smoking can have immediate health benefits, especially for those with HIV. Upon quitting, **(GIVE EXAMPLES FROM** [**http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/diseases/smoking-and-hiv.html#benefits-quitting**](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/diseases/smoking-and-hiv.html#benefits-quitting)**).**

If you have HIV and use tobacco, call the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line toll-free at 1-800-QUIT NOW. It’s also important to know your HIV status. You can get tested by your local clinician, or find a list of testing sites at dhs.wisconsin.gov/aid-hiv/.

Sincerely,