

### The Issue

- A sugary drink tax, also called a soda tax, is a tax or surcharge designed to reduce consumption of drinks with added sugar. Drinks covered under a soda tax often include carbonated soft drinks, sports drinks and energy drinks.
- On November 10, 2016, the Cook County Board of Commissioners passed the Cook County Sweetened Beverage Tax Ordinance. The tax imposed will be at the rate of \$0.01 per ounce on the retail sale of all sweetened beverages in Cook County.
- Originally slated to be implemented on July 1, the Sweetened Beverage Tax will be in effect as of August 2, 2017, when retailers and distributors must begin collecting the tax. The delay was caused by retailers and other opponents filing a restraining order against the county while they challenged the constitutionality of the tax in court.
- This tax applies to more than 1,000 beverages such as soda, juice drinks, sports drinks, flavored waters, iced tea, energy drinks and sweetened beverages produced from syrups.
- Along with increased prices for many beverages purchased at retail stores, the new tax also will add to the bills for beverages purchased at restaurants.

### Impact

- Obesity is a continuing problem in Illinois. Over 60 percent of adults in Illinois are overweight and 27.6 percent are obese. Although obesity has many causes, there is strong scientific evidence that sugary drink consumption is highly linked to obesity.
- Sugary beverages make up 46 percent of added sugars in the American diet.
- According to one study, a child's likelihood of developing obesity increases with every additional daily serving of soda.
- There is a 26 percent increase in the likelihood of developing type 2 diabetes for people who drink one to two sugary drinks in a day.
- Illinois spends \$6.3 billion **each year** treating obesity-related diseases

### Our Position

- **Presence Health believes in prevention.** Our Catholic mission calls us to care for the whole person. By taking small steps to prevent chronic disease, we help our communities to be healthier and avoid major complications and cost associated with managing a disease like diabetes.
- **Sweetened beverage tax revenues should support public health.** Increasing revenue for the government from a sweetened beverage tax should mean additional dollars for public health and prevention. All, if not a majority, should be reinvested in this area.
- **Sweetened beverage taxes decrease consumption.** Studies from abroad and early assessments of these taxes in the United States demonstrate a decrease in consumption based on increased cost and awareness.