

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

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Dear New Orleans Business Owners,

The City's new smoke-free ordinance goes into effect at midnight on **Wednesday, April 22, 2015**, which is less than two months away. As this ordinance was passed in the interest of public health, the New Orleans Health Department (NOHD) is the lead agency for its implementation. We want to work with you to ensure a successful launch of this major public health initiative that will improve health outcomes in our community for years to come.

Education

As outlined in the ordinance, the first step in implementation is education. Therefore, NOHD recently launched a website to educate the public on the smoke-free ordinance: www.nola.gov/smokefree. The website will host information on the ordinance, resources to help quit smoking, and other educational materials.

Toolkit for Business Owners

We are also developing a free toolkit for business owners. The toolkit will assist business owners in understanding and complying with the ordinance, as well as educating employees and patrons about the new requirements outlined in the ordinance. It will include a factsheet and description of the ordinance, signage to be posted in businesses, educational materials, and resources for quitting smoking. Toolkits will be developed and distributed over the next couple of months. **Please register to receive a free toolkit by visiting www.nola.gov/smokefree or by calling 311.**

Public Information Sessions

NOHD will also hold two public information sessions for anyone who wishes to learn more about the ordinance. Dates and times for these sessions will be announced in the next week and posted on our website.

Rules and Regulations

The City is currently developing specific rules and regulations for the ordinance's implementation, which must be approved by the City Council before they take effect. The City will host two public hearings to receive public comment on the education and enforcement components of the ordinance. These public hearings will be announced in the coming weeks and posted on our website. We hope you will participate in the hearings so that we can work together to develop effective ways to implement and enforce the smoke-free ordinance throughout the city of New Orleans.

Going forward, we welcome your input on this key public health issue. Contact us at healthdepartment@nola.gov or 311 and visit www.nola.gov/smokefree for frequent updates related to the smoke-free ordinance.

Sincerely,



Charlotte M. Parent, RN, MHCM

