



Message from the Director of Health

On April 22, 2015, the City's new smoke-free ordinance went into effect. In addition to restrictions that already existed under state law, there were new restrictions on smoking and vaping (use of electronic smoking devices) in many locations across the city.

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. It causes cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung diseases (such as emphysema), and diabetes. More than 20 million people in the United States have died from smoking-related diseases since 1964, including 2.5 million nonsmokers as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke. This ordinance addresses a major threat to public health by reducing exposure to secondhand smoke and encouraging smokers to quit.

As this ordinance was passed in the interest of public health, the New Orleans Health Department is the lead agency for its implementation. We want to continue working with you to ensure the continued success of this major public health initiative that will improve the health of our community for years to come.

This toolkit is intended to assist you in understanding and complying with the ordinance, as well as educating your employees and patrons about it. The toolkit includes an overview of the ordinance and frequently asked questions, an implementation checklist, a model "no smoking or vaping" sign, employee training material, resources to help smokers quit, and more. We hope that this toolkit will be helpful to maintain your business as a smoke-free environment.

The Health Department will update this toolkit as necessary. Please visit nola.gov/smokefree for additional resources. Please feel free to contact us by phone at 311 or (877) 286-6431 or by email at smokefree@nola.gov for further guidance.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Avegno,
Director of Health, City of New Orleans