

Tobacco-Free Initiative

BEGINNING AUGUST 2015

www.ohio.edu/tobacco-free

PHILOSOPHY

Ohio University supports a smoke and tobacco-free policy as a major wellness initiative for all members of the OHIO community. Ohio University's Tobacco-Free Initiative (TFI) also fosters cleaner and greener space while preparing our students for future tobacco-free environments.

DEFINITION

The use of tobacco or smoking products is defined as all nicotine, tobacco-derived or containing products, and plant-based products including, but not limited to, cigarettes (e.g., clove, bidis, kreteks), electronic cigarettes, cigars and cigarillos, hookah smoked products, and oral tobacco (spit and spitless, smokeless, chew, snuff).

For this policy, the University community will be defined as facilities, property, and grounds used to carry out the mission of the University. This extends to sidewalks adjacent to University buildings and grounds and personal vehicles on University property.

COMPLIANCE

Community-Wide Accountability

Each member of the University community will be responsible for respectfully informing or reminding others of the smoke and tobacco-free policy. This follows a successful compliance model utilized on many campuses, such as the Ohio State University and the University of Kentucky. Effective approaches and sample scripts are provided on the tobacco-free website.

Employees

It is the responsibility of a University employee to comply with the tobacco-free policy. If an employee is non-compliant, the supervisor has a responsibility to speak with the employee and encourage compliance. Supervisors are encouraged to emphasize the wellness aspects of the policy and ask if the employee is interested in any assistance adapting to the policy or interested in cessation resources. A guide for supervisors is provided on the tobacco-free website.

Students

It is the responsibility of the student to comply with the tobacco-free policy. When talking with students, one is also encouraged to emphasize the wellness aspects of the policy and to ask if the student is interested in any assistance adapting to the policy or interested in cessation resources. Handouts and other communication materials will be available on the forthcoming website.

Visitors, Volunteers, Patients, and Customers

It is recommended that visitors, volunteers, patients, and customers be reminded that all OHIO campuses, centers, and facilities are tobacco-free environments. Educating these groups will begin prior to their arrival on campus by the sponsoring office via their websites, mailings, advertisements, and electronic information. During an event, the sponsoring office shall make efforts to ensure compliance.



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Tobacco-Free Initiative

FAQ

Why did OHIO decide to go tobacco-free?

Ohio University strives to foster a healthy and productive environment. Research and recommendations from the Board of Regents, The American College Health Association, and the Surgeon General encouraged us to move forward in our tobacco-free initiative. Finally, after providing an electronic survey through the University, a majority of the 926 respondents were positive about supporting a tobacco-free policy.

Will there be designated smoking and tobacco use areas on the Athens Campus?

After much consideration and review of input from tobacco users, survey results, and benchmarked institutions, there will be NO designated smoking/tobacco use areas on the Athens Campus starting August 1, 2015. Each regional campus and center is also committed to this wellness initiative and has already or will be transitioning on its own timeline.

Is abstaining from tobacco a condition of employment at OHIO?

No; a tobacco-free policy does not prohibit tobacco use; it merely states where use can and cannot occur.

JOIN US

in making a greener, healthier
OHIO beginning August 2015

For additional information, visit
www.ohio.edu/tobacco-free

Join the conversation at **#ReadyOHIO**

Questions? email tobacco-free@ohio.edu

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RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR TOBACCO USERS

Understanding the realities of nicotine/tobacco addiction and the concern about personal rights, there is a strong and sincere empathy for University community members who smoke or use tobacco products.

OHIO is committed to assisting smokers and tobacco users on their journey if they choose to quit or cease use while on University property. Research indicates that it can take multiple attempts to quit and, therefore, we must support these attempts that may include such measures as cessation programs, support groups, and nicotine replacement therapy. Such efforts are currently being determined and will be fully outlined on the tobacco-free website.

EXCEPTIONS

- / FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapy such as patches, gum, inhalers, and lozenges.
- / Tobacco use for controlled research or for educational, clinical, or religious ceremonial purposes with the prior approval of the dean or director responsible for the facility.

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