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### New Year, New Clean Air Rules for Work Environments

Starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, new regulations for the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act, also known as the Smokefree Workplace Law, took effect. On May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Governor Kate Brown signed House Bill 2546 enacting the amended regulation into State Law. The new regulations restrict all types of “inhalants” (nicotine, marijuana or any other substance delivered into a person’s respiratory system) and “inhalant delivery systems.” Inhalant delivery systems are devices that can be used to deliver nicotine, cannabinoids and other substances, in the form of a vapor or aerosol. These include e-cigarettes, vape pens, e-hookah and other devices.

Smoking in or near workplaces has been banned in Oregon since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 after the original bill was signed after the 2007 legislative session.

We know that in Oregon, e-cigarette use has increased by 150% from 2011 to 2013, however, we do not have the vast amount of research on electronic devices that we do on combustible products. Preliminary studies have identified cancer and birth defect causing chemicals, similar to those found in traditional cigarettes, in the secondhand vapors of electronic devices. We simply don’t know enough about these new products to endorse them as health promoting and although we have heard anecdotal stories about the possibility of harm reduction, ‘less harmful’ does not mean ‘harmless’.

In Lincoln County, 9 out of 10 retailers sell flavored tobacco and 6 out of 10 sell electronic devices. We know that the flavored products appeal to kids and is often where they begin to experiment and eventually get addicted. Oregon has the highest rate of illegal tobacco sales to minors and with 90% of people starting tobacco use before the age of 18; the new regulations are an attempt to reduce the renormalization of tobacco habits via electronic products.

Under the new regulations, businesses:

- Cannot allow nicotine delivery devices within 10 feet of entrances, exits, accessibility ramps that lead to or from an entrance or exit, windows that open, or air-intake vents at any indoor workplace or public place.
- Must post “no smoking within 10 feet” signs at all building entrances and exits.

- Must label all tables or outdoor seating or dining areas within 10 feet of entrance as nonsmoking.
- Must remove all ashtrays and other receptacles for smoking debris from outdoor locations within 10 feet of entrances.

The new restrictions are for the health of our workforce and our community as a whole. Lincoln County Health & Human Services is eager to show support for the new law and make the transition easy for businesses. Contact Samantha Schafer, Tobacco Prevention and Education Program Coordinator to provide technical assistance, decals, and additional information on the new rules.

**For more information:**

To learn more about the new regulations: [www.healthoregon.org/morefreshair](http://www.healthoregon.org/morefreshair)

Samantha Schafer, Lincoln County Health and Human Services Tobacco Prevention and Education Coordinator [sschafer@co.lincoln.or.us](mailto:sschafer@co.lincoln.or.us) / 541-265-6611 ext. 3281

To get help quitting the use of tobacco, call the Oregon Tobacco Quit Line toll-free at 1800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) or 1-855-DEJELO-YA (1-855-335356-92)

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