

Employers can choose to implement their own tobacco-free policies to eliminate the danger of secondhand smoke and aerosol exposure outside entrances to their workplaces.

Why consider tobacco-free entrances?

Your business is committed to providing a healthy and safe work environment for your employees, clients, contractors, and visitors.

Did you know?

- According to the Surgeon General, there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Even short-term exposure can potentially increase the risk of heart attacks.
- Each year, secondhand smoke kills more than 41,000 nonsmokers in the United States.
- Secondhand smoke costs our economy \$5.6 billion per year due to lost productivity.

What about e-cigarettes?

E-cigarettes and other vapor devices emit aerosol that usually contains nicotine, other toxins, and ultrafine particles; not harmless water vapor. It is recommended to include e-cigarettes in all tobacco-free policies.

www.hhs.gov
www.lung.org
www.no-smoke.org

Thank you for your interest in creating a policy for tobacco-free entrances at your workplace.

For more information:

CleanSafeAirLNK.org
402-441-4108
simms@lincoln.ne.gov

tobacco free
LANCASTER COUNTY



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Tobacco-Free Entrances

RESOURCE GUIDE



Establishing a Tobacco-Free Entrance Policy

Draft Policy Content

A good tobacco-free entrance and exit policy should send a clear message that your organization is supportive of protecting your clients and employees from secondhand smoke and aerosol at entrances and exits. When designating a tobacco use area, ensure that it is away from open windows and ventilation systems. Also, remember to include how you plan to enforce the policy.

Sample Tobacco-Free Policy

Policy Statement

[Insert company name] values the health and safety of our employees, clients, contractors, and visitors. Secondhand smoke is a proven health hazard, with no safe level of exposure. In order to reduce the risk of exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosol, all tobacco use including the use of e-cigarettes is prohibited within 25 feet of any building entrance/exit, including facilities rented for business-related functions.

"Tobacco use" means the act of smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco, or the use of any other tobacco product in any form.

Compliance

{Insert company name} employees in violation of this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with the disciplinary guidelines in the policy handbook. Noncompliant clients and visitors will be politely informed of the policy and asked to move to a location which complies with the policy.

Promote the Policy

Promotion is key to the success of tobacco-free policies. Prominently post signage that clearly indicates the parameters of your policy. Often, simply awareness of the policy will ensure much of the compliance. In addition to signage at entrances and exits, consider posting the policy in lunch rooms, break rooms, and/or locker rooms. Train your managers on the policy, then ask them to explain it at a staff meeting. Additionally, a copy of the policy should be given to new employees and temporary staff.



NO SMOKING
INSIDE BUILDING OR WITHIN
25 FEET OF ENTRANCES
Thank You
for protecting the health & safety
of our employees & visitors.



Offer Cessation Resources & Support Quit Attempts

Seven out of ten people who smoke want to quit. Having supportive policies, like tobacco-free entrances, at work increases success.

Support your employees that use this opportunity to reduce tobacco use or even quit. Check with your insurance carrier for options, contact programs like Workwell or Madonna Fit For Work for cessation programs, and share the Nebraska Tobacco Quitline (1-800-QUIT-NOW) as a quitting resource.

FREE information and educational materials are available through Tobacco Free Lancaster County and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

Enforce the Policy

Ensure all components of the policy are easy to understand and follow. This includes clearly defining the distance required from entrances and actions to be taken for non-compliance. Visual reminders, such as signage and cigarette waste receptacles will help with compliance.

Want to do more?

You can do even more to protect the health and safety of your employees and visitors by adopting a tobacco-free campus policy. Find out more about FREE assistance at CleanSafeAirLNK.org.