

Tobacco-Free Zone

Effective July 1, 2006 the Medical Center is tobacco free inside and outside of all facilities. Effective July 7, 2006, the use of tobacco products is prohibited on the grounds surrounding Health Sciences Colleges that are contiguous to the Medical Center including Fry Hall (Optometry), Newton Hall (Nursing), Parks Hall (Pharmacy) and Postle Hall (Dentistry), as well as all Biological Sciences buildings (Aronoff Lab, Biological Sciences Building, Biological Sciences Greenhouse, General Biology Annex, Jennings Hall, and Riffe Building).

Questions and Answers Applicable to the Entire Tobacco-Free Zone

1. What is considered a tobacco product and therefore prohibited in the tobacco-free zone?

Tobacco products include, and are not limited to cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and pipes.

2. Where is tobacco product usage prohibited?

In addition to the general university nonsmoking policy, which prohibits smoking in all university buildings, the use of tobacco products is also prohibited in dedicated Medical Center sites, including the inside and outside of buildings and the surrounding sidewalks. Medical Center signage will clearly identify the restricted areas and announcements will broadcast outside of some buildings to inform individuals that tobacco use is prohibited in the immediate vicinity. The use of tobacco products is also prohibited on the grounds surrounding Health Sciences Colleges that are contiguous to the Medical Center including Fry Hall (Optometry), Newton Hall (Nursing), Parks Hall (Pharmacy), and Postle Hall (Dentistry), as well as all Biological Sciences buildings (Aronoff Lab, Biological Sciences Building, Biological Sciences Greenhouse, General Biology Annex, Jennings Hall, and Riffe Building). Refer to the Tobacco-Free Zone map for specific borders, available online at hr.osu.edu/policy/resources/720map.pdf.

3. Where is tobacco product usage allowed?

Tobacco product usage is only permitted in areas outside of the combined perimeter of the Medical Center, Frye Hall, Newton Hall, Parks Hall, Postle Hall, and all Biological Sciences buildings. Refer to the Tobacco-Free Zone map for specific borders, available online at hr.osu.edu/policy/resources/720map.pdf.

4. To whom does the Tobacco-Free Zone policy apply?

The policy applies to all persons who are in the Tobacco-Free zone or any Medical Center property for any reason.

5. How will concerns about the second-hand smoke and any resulting trash that may “spill over” onto the grounds of workplaces that are contiguous with the Tobacco-Free Zone be handled? To whom should problems be reported?

For Medical Center issues, contact the Medical Center Facilities Dispatcher at 293-8645. For issues with Fry Hall (Optometry), Newton Hall (Nursing), Parks Hall (Pharmacy) and Postle Hall (Dentistry), as well as all Biological Sciences buildings (Aronoff Lab, Biological Sciences Building, Biological Sciences

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Greenhouse, General Biology Annex, Jennings Hall, and Riffe Building), contact the College Office or the Facilities Operations and Development Service Desk at 292-6158.

6. Who is the contact when someone is seen violating the Tobacco-Free Zone policy?

All Ohio State personnel are asked to hold others accountable to the policy. When someone is not compliant, the individual should be courteously informed of the policy. If Medical Center personnel are uncomfortable doing this, they may call the main Security office at 293-8500. If personnel from the Colleges of Biological Sciences, Dentistry, Nursing, Optometry, and Pharmacy are uncomfortable doing this, they may call their college offices.

7. Are there resources available to assist personnel, patients, and visitors in ceasing tobacco use?

Faculty, staff, students, patients, and visitors who wish to stop using tobacco products have access to the following resources:

- The OSU James Cancer Hospital provides smoking cessation opportunities through the Kick-It program.
- The Medical Center is working with the Ohio Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Foundation to become a recipient of the Nicotine Replacement Therapy Cooperative Plan for Ohio through the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line (1-800-QUIT-NOW).
- The Medical Center is developing a submission for the Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Foundation (TUPCF) grant funding to designate the OSU Health System as a regional tobacco cessation center.
- The university medical plans through Your Plan For Health initiatives have recently introduced improved benefits for tobacco cessation. Refer online to www.yourplanforhealth.com.
- The University Faculty and Staff Assistance Program (UFSAP) is available for stress-related issues. Refer online to www.osumhcs.com/ufsap.
- The Student Wellness Center offers support for students at recsports.osu.edu/wellness.asp.

Questions and Answers Applicable to the Medical Center Tobacco Free Zone

8. Why is the Medical Center implementing this tobacco-free policy at this time?

The Medical Center is transitioning to a tobacco-free campus to provide a healthier environment. During the past few years the Medical Center has limited the approved areas for smoking and the Medical Center believes it is now time to take another step to reflect our commitment to good health. As a health care provider, the Medical Center believes it is important to model healthy behaviors and eliminate “triggers,” such as smoking areas, which make smoking cessation difficult. To maintain these areas is to give approval of tobacco use, which is not the message the Medical Center wants to send.

9. How can the Medical Center infringe upon the right to smoke for individuals who are not affiliated with the Medical Center?

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As an academic medical center with a leading cancer and heart hospital, the Medical Center is transitioning to a tobacco-free campus to provide a healthier environment for patients, visitors, faculty, staff, and students. The Medical Center hopes to promote healthy behaviors and if individuals desire assistance in quitting, the Medical Center can help by referring them to cessation programs.

10. How will the Medical Center Tobacco-Free policy be enforced?

The Tobacco-Free Steering Committee has decided to use the term “encouragement” when dealing with enforcement of the Medical Center Tobacco-Free policy. The Medical Center fully understands that tobacco is an addictive agent and through positive reinforcement and peer assistance it is hoped that all Medical Center personnel will help spread the message that the Medical Center is tobacco-free. It is the Medical Center’s intent to implement this policy in a non-punitive manner; however, those who are defiant toward the policy will be handled in an appropriate manner.

- University and Medical Center personnel will be dealt with through the established employment corrective action process.
- Students who are not employed with the university will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for appropriate disciplinary action.
- Individuals who are not employed by the university or Medical Center will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

11. What does the Medical Center plan to do about personnel who leave campus for their smoke breaks?

Authorized breaks will not be lengthened because of the implementation of the policy. When personnel take breaks that are longer than allowed, corrective action will be taken. Personnel will be reminded to return to their job in a timely fashion as they did before the policy was implemented.

12. Since the Colleges of Optometry, Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Biological Sciences are located across the street from the Medical Center, can individuals just go there to smoke?

Medical Center personnel are not permitted to go into the areas immediately outside of Frye Hall, Newton Hall, Parks Hall, Postle Hall, or any Biological Sciences buildings to smoke. Individuals are discouraged from going to surrounding neighborhoods to smoke.

13. How will the Medical Center handle personnel who do not want to stop the use of tobacco products?

Medical Center personnel are not being required to stop using tobacco products. However, they will not be permitted to use tobacco products on any Medical Center property. Similar to the regulations in the restaurant and air travel industries, individuals will need to find a way to manage their need for nicotine in ways that do not involve tobacco use on the Medical Center grounds.

14. Is it expected that some personnel will leave Medical Center employment instead of complying with the policy or that patients will go elsewhere for their health care services?

Based on the experience of other hospitals that have implemented similar policies there seems to be little negative impact on staffing. In fact, their staff satisfaction has increased as a result of the policy change. The

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Medical Center is attempting to implement the policy in a very thoughtful process so that patients and visitors will not see this as a negative feature but rather as a positive one as it relates to their decision of where to seek health care services.

15. What will the Medical Center do to inform patients and visitors of the policy?

The Tobacco-Free Medical Center Steering Committee and Task Forces will recommend ways that the Medical Center can inform our guests of this policy, while ensuring that the Medical Center are compassionate toward their needs.

16. How does this policy support the Medical Center's commitment to patients and families who rely on smoking to relieve the stress of being in the hospital?

Team members from the Tobacco-Free Steering Committee are looking at ways that the Medical Center can provide patients and guests resources to help them cope during their stay. The Medical Center realizes that there are special circumstances for these groups.

17. How will the Medical Center work with specific patient populations who use smoking as part of their coping mechanisms for treatment of other diseases, such as individuals being treated for addiction?

A task force is looking into how the Medical Center can implement the policy and remain compassionate to those that rely on tobacco use as part of their medical treatment.

18. What other hospitals have a similar policy for their patients, visitors, and staff?

Within Ohio, the Cleveland Clinic properties are smoke free. The University Hospital Health System in Cleveland, along with Bucyrus Community Hospital, East Ohio Regional Hospital, and Ohio Valley Medical Center have all adopted no-smoking policies on their campuses. Nationally, the University of Michigan Health System is smoke-free, as well as the Mayo Clinic where smoking has been banned since the mid-90's.

19. Why were tobacco products selected over other health-risk products, such as unhealthy food options that are available at the Medical Center?

Tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death, as well as preventable disease in the U.S. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) more than 440,000 people die prematurely each year from tobacco-related diseases. Tobacco product usage was selected over other health-risk products because tobacco products such as cigarettes directly affect those who are not using the product through second-hand smoke.

Many people are not aware of how smoking impacts health care and recovery. By making our environment tobacco-free, the Medical Center is addressing one of the main health risks today.

- a. Smoking is a factor in heart disease, cancer, stroke, and lung disease.
- b. Smoking costs the U.S. nearly \$150 billion each year in health care and other expenses.
- c. Patients who smoke regularly before surgery have twice the risk of infection as nonsmokers.

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- d. Smoking slows healing after surgery.
- e. Smoking causes broken bones to take twice as long to heal.

20. Where can additional information be obtained?

Questions can be answered by:

- Contacting Medical Center Human Resources at 614-293-4988.
- Referring to the complete policy 7.20 online at hr.osu.edu/policy/index.aspx.
- Contacting Organization and Human Resource Consulting at ohrc@hr.osu.edu, 614-292-2800.