



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



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To: All County of Marin employees

Re: Marin County Smoke-Free Campus Policy

I'm writing to inform you about an important step we're taking to support the health of our community. All County of Marin campuses are now smoke-free. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S., and this policy will protect our employees and visitors from the harm of tobacco and nicotine while on County-owned property. In taking this step we are joining other California counties, hospitals and schools to create healthier, smoke-free environments. The ordinance adopted by the Marin County Board of Supervisors is stated here:

**7.70.030:** Prohibition of Smoking in Enclosed Facilities, Unenclosed Areas and County Vehicles:

- A. Smoking shall be prohibited in all Enclosed Facilities owned or controlled by the county, including but not limited to all buildings, jails, the honor farm, juvenile hall and enclosed fairgrounds facilities. This smoking prohibition shall also be applicable to any board, council, commission and/or agency of the county.
- B. Smoking shall be prohibited in all Unenclosed Areas owned, leased or operated solely by and for the County of Marin.
- C. Smoking shall be prohibited in all vehicles owned, leased or operated by the county including jitneys and buses and other means of public transit under the authority of the county.

We welcome and would like to support any tobacco users who recognize this as an opportunity to cut down or quit. Robert Curry (415-473-2559; [rcurry@marincounty.org](mailto:rcurry@marincounty.org)) at the Marin County Tobacco Related Disease Control program will provide tobacco cessation information to anyone seeking help. Additional resources include:

- Bay Area Community Resources (BACR): tobacco cessation classes, referrals, and education services. More information at [www.bacr.org](http://www.bacr.org)
- California Smokers Helpline: 1-800-NO-BUTTS offers free telephonic counseling, self-help materials and online help in six languages.

We thank all employees and visitors for your ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of all in Marin. See the attached fact sheet for additional information about this policy.

Yours in Health,

Matt Willis, MD MPH  
Public Health Officer, County of Marin

***Facts about the new Smoke-Free campus policy:***

- This law applies to anyone in a building, vehicle or on the grounds of a property owned or leased by Marin County, including employees, patients, visitors, vendors, and subcontractors.
- Smoking includes the use of cigarettes, cigars, water pipes, pipes, hookahs, marijuana (including medical marijuana) and electronic smoking devices, such as e-cigarettes, mods, e-hookahs and vapor pens.
- The intent of the law is to provide a safe and healthy environment for employees, clients and visitors, free from exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosol particles from electronic smoking devices. To this end, County employees and visitors are asked to refrain from smoking while on County property or in County cars, or in private vehicles parked on County property.
- Smokers can leave County property to smoke on work breaks. Smoking laws are designed to be self-enforcing. Through educational efforts targeted to employees and visitors and posting of “no smoking signs” throughout the County campus, smokers will become aware of the new law and understand where they cannot smoke.
- All County employees can point to “no smoking signs” to ask someone to stop smoking or vaping electronic smoking devices. Employees can educate and inform visitors and other employees about the new policy.
- This is not about smokers, many of whom were addicted by tobacco companies at a young age. The policy is about the toxins and fire safety hazards caused by tobacco and electronic smoking devices and their danger to others and the environment.
- Secondhand smoke has been documented by the California Air Resources Board as a Class A carcinogen and Toxic Air Contaminant for which there is no safe level of exposure, even in outdoor settings. Many of our co-workers, family members and friends have become disabled or died prematurely due to tobacco related diseases.
- The County Fire Department staff cites grass and landscape bark fires caused by cigarettes as a cause of concern. In addition to being a fire hazard when smoldering on the ground, cigarette litter is a health hazard to small children and animals.
- Please see the County Smoking Policy FAQ sheet and [www.smokefreemarin.com](http://www.smokefreemarin.com) for more details. If you have questions, contact: (415) 473-3020.