



## Frequently Asked Questions: Howard County's New Smokefree Law

### What is the purpose of Howard County's smokefree law?

To improve public health by decreasing exposure to secondhand smoke. Smokefree workplaces also reduce fire hazards, create a cleaner environment, and improve the health of staff and patrons while also reducing health care costs.

### What types of protections are covered under the new law?

Secondhand smoke from:

- Tobacco
- Hookah
- Marijuana
- Electronic Smoking Devices

### Where is smoking prohibited under the new law?

#### Beginning April 1, 2017

- Outdoor arenas, stadiums, and amphitheatres
- Bleachers
- Playgrounds
- Outdoor festivals and events
- Outdoor common areas of residential facilities

#### Beginning July 1, 2017

- Bingo facilities
- Gaming facilities
- Hotels and motels
- Private clubs
- Service lines

### What is the distance that smoking is prohibited from entrances?

Eight feet.

### Will any places be exempt?

Outdoor eating/drinking areas restricted to over 18 years of age and tobacco retail stores.

### Who will handle enforcement?

The Howard County Health Department is the primary entity that will enforce these measures while handling other routine inspections, and will also respond to complaints. However, citation capabilities are retained by all law enforcement agencies to assist as needed.

### What are the penalties for violations?

As written, the first violation results in a warning to the business. Subsequent violations within the same year result in fines of \$200, \$400, \$800, and \$1,500.

### How can I report a violation?

Anyone can file a complaint on the Howard County Health Department's website.

Visit [HowardCountyIN.gov](http://HowardCountyIN.gov) and click on "[Smoking Complaint Form](#)".