



Tobacco 21 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

What is the new Tobacco 21 law?

Tobacco and nicotine products can no longer be sold to anyone under the age of 21.

What products does this law apply to?

Cigarettes, other tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, alternative nicotine products, and papers used to roll cigarettes.

When does the law go into effect?

Kent City Council made the new ordinance effective immediately: July 18, 2018.

Who will enforce the new law?

The Kent City Health Department will work with all retailers within Kent City limits to ensure compliance. Enforcement will begin October 1, 2018.

Will new signage be required for Kent retailers?

Yes. All retailers of tobacco and nicotine products are required to post a sign in a conspicuous place stating the new legal purchase age of 21. The sign is available online www.kentpublichealth.org.

Are there penalties for a violation?

Yes. Retailers that do not comply with the Tobacco 21 ordinance risk potential fines up to \$1,000 for each violation.

Why did Kent pass this new law?

The goal of Tobacco 21 is to reduce the rates of tobacco and nicotine usage among young people to improve health and save lives. Nearly all adult smokers began smoking by the age of 18 and almost nobody starts smoking after 21. Nicotine and e-cigarettes are especially harmful to young people who are more prone to addiction. It is important to protect young people from the harmful effects of tobacco and nicotine.

Does the community support this new initiative?

Yes. Kent surveys show that 76% of residents support Tobacco 21. Nationwide surveys show that 75% of adults favor the age increase to 21. Over 300 cities across the country have adopted Tobacco 21, including ten in Ohio (Columbus, Cleveland, Akron, etc.). Oregon, California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Maine have already passed state-wide Tobacco 21 laws.

What if I have questions or need additional information?

Please visit the Kent City Health Department website at www.kentpublichealth.org or call 330-678-8109.