

Health Unit Media Release



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The Smoke-Free Ontario Act comes into effect in the early morning hours of May 31st

Past the strike of midnight tonight all enclosed public places and workplaces in Ontario should be smoke-free. The requirements of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act will go a long way in protecting the public from exposure to second-hand smoke and keeping tobacco products away from young people.

Some of the changes to expect include:

- Smoke-free enclosed public places
- Smoke-free enclosed workplaces including vehicles
- Smoke-free licensed private home day cares whether a child is present or not
- Smoke-free bar and restaurant patios that are completely or partially covered
- Smoke-free hospitals and other health care facilities

Some of the provisions to keep tobacco out of the hands of children include:

- No outside advertising of tobacco products
- No countertop displays of tobacco products
- Cigarettes can only be displayed in individual cigarette packages. Cartons are no longer to be visible before purchase
- No self serve tobacco displays
- All promotion of tobacco products is no longer allowed
- Retailers are required to ask identification of anyone who appears to be under 25 years of age each and every time they purchase tobacco products
- Youth test shopping is a required Ministry of Health Promotion activity for ensuring tobacco vendor compliance with the legislation

For information on the Smoke-Free Ontario Act and Ontario Regulation 48/06 associated with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act.

Visit our website at www.healthunit.org or email your questions to SFOA@healthunit.org

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