

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the ordinance?

The purpose of the ordinance is to promote public health by decreasing workers' and citizens' exposure to secondhand smoke and to create smoke-free environments for workers and citizens through regulation.

What businesses and public places are regulated by this ordinance?

The possession of lighted smoking materials in any form is prohibited in all enclosed public places and enclosed places of employment in Columbia.

What is a "public place?" A public place is any enclosed area to which the public is invited or in which the public is permitted. This includes educational facilities, laundromats, public transportation facilities, retail service establishments, retail stores, restaurants, bars, bingo, and bowling establishments.

Are private residences affected by this ordinance? No, unless the residence is used as a childcare, adult daycare, or healthcare facility.

Are there areas where smoking is not regulated? Exemptions include smoking rooms designated by hotels, establishments that sell primarily tobacco products, certain separately ventilated private rooms where no employees are exposed to smoke.

Who will enforce the ordinance? Authority to enforce is vested with the Director of Health.

What is the penalty for not complying? Any person violating, neglecting, or refusing to comply shall be guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$200.

Benefits of Quitting

Within 20 minutes of smoking the last cigarette, the body begins a series of healing changes:

20 minutes: Blood pressure and pulse drop to normal.

8 hours: Carbon monoxide level in blood drops, Oxygen level increases.

24 hours: Chance of heart attack decreases.

48 hours: Ability to smell and taste is enhanced.

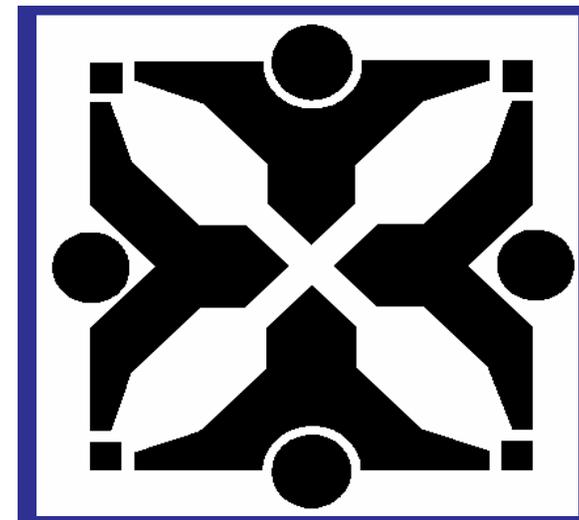
1-9 months: Coughing, shortness of breath decrease.

5 years: Lung cancer rate is cut in half, stroke risk reduced.

10 years: Lung cancer death rate similar to that of nonsmokers; decreased risk of cancer of mouth, throat, esophagus, bladder, kidney, pancreas.

15 years: Risk of coronary heart disease is that of a nonsmoker.

Source: American Lung Association of Missouri



Ordinance

Prohibiting Smoking In Public Places and Places of Employment

City of Columbia Ordinance # 19252
Columbia, Missouri Smoke-Free Ordinance

Effective January 9, 2007

Full text of ordinance available at
www.GoColumbiaMo.com

Columbia/Boone County Health
Department

1005 W. Worley St

Columbia, Missouri 65203

Information: 573-874-7346

Environmental Health Complaint Hotline:

573-874-7339

Fellow Columbians,

In October of 2006 the Columbia City Council amended the City Code to prohibit smoking in all workplaces and public places, effective January 9, 2007. This ordinance includes all private offices, work areas, restrooms, employee lounges, and all indoor areas of each workplace.

The Columbia Smoking Ordinance was developed to protect all employees and the public from exposure to the hazards from secondhand smoke.

This pamphlet explains what is included in the ordinance, how it applies to you as a citizen or an employer, and how enforcement will take place.

Research has shown that reducing smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke can reduce chronic diseases and cancer of several types.

Should you have questions or need further clarification on the enforcement of this ordinance, please contact the Environmental Health Division of Columbia/Boone County Health Department at 573-874-7346.

Thank you for your cooperation in making Columbia workplaces and public spaces smoke-free.

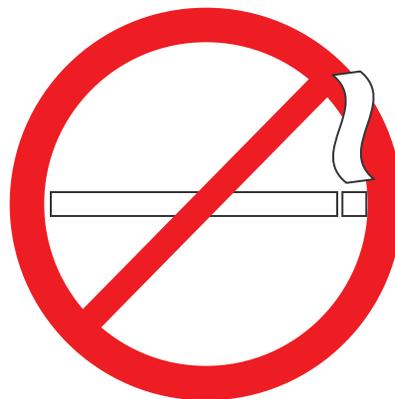
*Sincerely,
Stephanie Browning*

Benefits of a Smoke-free workplace

Smoke-free workplaces have benefits for employees, patrons, and businesses:

- Reduced exposure to a proven cancer-causing agent – secondhand smoke
- Reduction in maintenance and cleaning costs
- Decreased risk of fires

Healthier environment for everyone



Enforcement

The ordinance goes into effect January 9, 2007.

Enforcement is the responsibility of the Director of Health

Enforcement will be complaint driven and any citizen may file a complaint by calling the Environmental Health Hotline: 573-874-7339.

Responsibility of proprietors – to prominently post “**NO SMOKING**” signs and upon observing a person in violation to request that person to stop smoking. (Section: 11-293)

Penalty: fine of not more than \$200

**For a complete copy of the ordinance visit:
GoColumbiaMo.com**