



To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County

Smoking and Vaping in Public Places Q & A

On August 18, 2016, the Smoking and Vaping in Public Places ordinance went into effect. The purpose of the ordinance is to provide for and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the general public.

1. Why is the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) enforcing this law?

The Smoking in Public Places law was initially passed in 2005 by Washington State voters. During that time, most businesses have been in compliance with the law on their own. However, there are still some businesses that are not in compliance with the law and local public health departments are responsible for enforcing both the state law and local ordinance. The recent ordinance includes vaping as well as smoking.

2. If customers smoke or vape within 25 feet of my establishment, will I be fined?

In some instances, it is not possible to get 25 feet away from entrances or exits downtown, because an individual would be in the street. It is not the intent of the law, ordinance, or KCPHD's intent to police the sidewalks. The intent is to cite establishments who are blatantly violating the law by allowing smoking and/or vaping in their establishment.

3. If I allow someone to smoke or vape in my establishment, will I be fined?

If you allow smoking and/or vaping in your establishment and a Kittitas County Public Health Department employee witnesses the violation, then the business owner will be subject to title 18, code enforcement.

4. If an individual enters my business smoking and/or vaping, will I be fined?

If an individual enters your business while smoking or vaping, you should ask them to leave or stop smoking and/or vaping.

5. What about vaping inside a shop that sells vaping products?

Kittitas County Code Chapter 8.24.070 allows for the use of electronic vaping devices in licensed (by the State of Washington) retail outlets where the primary retail activity is the sale and distribution of vapor devices. However, the Federal Food and Drug Administration prohibit free samples of vapor products containing nicotine. Vape shops can offer samples not containing nicotine or they can charge for samples.

