

Going Smoke-Free: Toolkit for Residents



The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade
Office of Community Health and Planning
Tobacco Prevention Program

Secondhand Smoke in Multi-Unit Housing

What is the issue? Why is there such concern about secondhand smoke in living spaces?



What is Secondhand smoke?

Secondhand smoke is the smoke that comes from the burning end of a cigarette, cigar or pipe. It is smoke that is breathed out by a person smoking.

1. Secondhand smoke is dangerous

- The U.S. Surgeon General says there is NO risk free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.¹
- Tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, with 70 that cause cancer.²
- Up to 65% of air is exchanged between units.³
- Opening windows or using fans or air conditioners will not stop secondhand smoke exposure.

2. Secondhand smoke effects

- Over 400 infants and 41,000 adult nonsmokers die every year from secondhand smoke exposure.⁴
- Secondhand smoke can cause strokes, heart attacks, and lung disease.⁵



3. Smoke is a leading cause of fire deaths and injuries

- Almost 1,000 people die every year from smoking related fires, half are residents in multi-unit housing, and a third are children.⁶



Keeping a smoke-free home can help improve your health, the health of your children and the health of your community.



**A message from the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County.
Made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**

Sources: 1- Second Hand Smoke: Danger, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015
2- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, A Report of the Surgeon General, 2014
3- Center for Energy and Environment, 2004
4- CDC Vital Signs, February 2015
5- HUD Action Guide, October 2014
6- Indoor concentrations of nicotine in low-income, multi-unit housing, Tobacco Control, 2009



No Smoking Rule: An Overview

On November 30, 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced a final rule to restrict smoking in public housing. This fact sheet provides an overview of the rule's smoking restrictions.

Q: What does the rule do?

A: The rule requires public housing agencies (PHAs) to adopt a smoke-free policy by August 2018. The policy must prohibit the use of "prohibited tobacco products" in all indoor areas, including individual living units, common areas, administrative office buildings, and outdoor areas within 25 feet of those areas.

Q: What units of public housing does the rule cover?

A: The rule covers public housing units. The rule excludes dwelling units in mixed-finance projects and does not apply to housing assisted under Section 8, PHA properties that have converted to project-based rental assistance contracts under the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program, or tribal housing. However, these properties can choose to include no smoking policies.

Q: What types of tobacco products does the rule include?

A: The rule prohibits the use of "prohibited tobacco products," including "waterpipes (hookahs)" and "items that involve the ignition and burning of tobacco leaves, such as (but not limited to) cigarettes, cigars, and pipes." While the rule does not include electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) or other electronic smoking devices, PHAs can choose to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in their smoke-free policies.

Q: Does the rule cover outdoor areas?

A: The rule prohibits smoking in all outdoor areas within 25 feet of housing and administrative office buildings. This 25-foot perimeter includes balconies, porches, decks, and any outdoor space within 25 feet. Any designated smoking areas would have to be outside the 25-foot buffer zone. While the rule does not cover outdoor areas beyond 25 feet of housing and administrative office HUD's Rule to Restrict Smoking in Public Housing, it allows PHAs to create additional smoke-free outdoor areas like playgrounds or to make their entire grounds smoke-free.

Q: How will the rule be enforced?

A: The smoke-free policy must be included in the applicable PHA plans and tenant leases. Enforcement of the PHA's smoke-free policy is the responsibility of the local PHA. HUD may use PHA certifications to verify that PHAs have implemented smoke-free policies and use periodic inspections and audits to help monitor whether policies are being enforced.

Q: How does the rule impact a PHA's already existing smoke-free policy?

A: The rule does not grandfather (i.e., legally allow the continuation of) existing smoke-free policies that do not meet the minimum HUD requirements. If a PHA has a policy that is less stringent than the HUD requirements (e.g., no buffer zone or only a 15-foot buffer zone), the PHA policy must be updated to be in line with the new HUD requirements. Smoke-free policies may go beyond the HUD requirements, including prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes and establishing entirely smoke-free grounds.

Q: How long do PHAs have to adopt a smoke-free policy?

A: PHAs have until August 2018 to implement their smoke-free policies, PHA's will be engaging with residents and holding public meetings, and will obtain board approval in the smoke-free policy adoption process.

Q: Will there be cessation services available?

A: The Florida Department of Health will provide cessation information and cessation counseling will be provided through Area Health Education Centers.

Source: HUD's Rule to Restrict Smoking in Public Housing – Tobacco Control Legal Consortium

Walls don't protect you from secondhand smoke



Breathe easy and ask for smoke-free housing



Free Resources

**Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County
Tobacco Prevention Program**

(305) 278 - 0442

<http://tobaccofreeflorida.com/county/miamidade/>

Area Health Education Center

- FREE counseling and tobacco replacement therapy

1 (877) 848 - 6696

www.alectobacco.com

Tobacco Free Florida/Quit Coach

1 (877) U-CAN-NOW or 1 (877) 822 - 6669

www.quitnow.net/florida

Tobacco-Free Workgroup

Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade

<http://www.healthymiamidade.org/committees/tobacco-free-workgroup/>

