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Tuscarawas County
Health Department

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Ohio Department of Health Releases Smoke Free Workplace Media Campaign

DOVER – The Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) is promoting the Ohio Department of Health’s (ODH) new media campaign highlighting the update to Ohio’s smoke free workplace law to now include e-cigarettes. Ohio’s smoke free workplace law was implemented in 2007 to provide protection from secondhand smoke at all indoor public places. In October 2021, the Ohio legislature passed an update to the smoke free workplace law to now include e-cigarettes. This means that e-cigarettes cannot be used in indoor public places, such as businesses, theaters, restaurants, bars, and etc.


In Ohio, smoking related health care costs equate to nearly \$4.4 million annually, or about \$1,623 per Ohio smoker. Smokers have been found to use their health care benefits 50% more than non-smokers. On average, a business will spend more than \$3,931 per employee who smokes per year when the business factors in greater health care costs, increased absenteeism from work, work time spent smoking, higher life insurance premiums, and greater risk of occupational injuries.



“We encourage all businesses to promote cessation services to their employees because you never know when or where someone will decide they are ready to quit nicotine and tobacco products,” explained Katelyn Gorius, Tobacco Use Prevention & Cessation Coordinator at TCHD. “All Ohioans are eligible for FREE quit support through the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-7848-669).”



The purpose of this ODH media campaign is to help educate businesses and the public on the changes that have been made to the smoke free workplace law to help protect individuals from exposure to secondhand aerosol from e-cigarettes. E-cigarette users are now required to go outside to use their e-cigarette, just like traditional cigarette users are required to do. Violations of the smoke free workplace law can be reported to ODH by calling 1-866-559-OHIO (1-866-559-6446), emailing NoSmoke@odh.ohio.gov, or completing an online complaint form at <https://workplacesmoking.odh.ohio.gov/ComplaintReport/CreateReport/>.

ODH is helping to educate businesses through this statewide media campaign and direct outreach to businesses. Over 280,000 registered businesses in the state of Ohio will be receiving new smoke free workplace signage and information about the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line mailed directly to their businesses.

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