

**WISCONSIN *is* BETTER**

**SMOKE-FREE**

## **Wisconsin's Statewide Smoke-Free Air Law**

**Effective Date: July 5, 2010**

The statewide smoke-free air law is intended to protect Wisconsin workers and customers from secondhand smoke in indoor public places and indoor workplaces.

### Definitions:

*Place of Employment:* any indoor place that employees enter carrying out their work duties such as office, work area, employee lounge, restroom, conference room, meeting room, classroom, elevator, stairway, lobby, common area, vehicle, cafeteria, meeting room, or hallway.

*Public Place:* any place open to the public or where the public may be invited.

*Enclosed Place:* a structure or area that has a roof and more than two substantial walls.

*Substantial Wall:* a wall with no opening or with an opening that either does not allow air in from the outside or is less than 25 percent (25%) of the wall's surface area.

*Smoking:* a cigar, cigarette, pipe or other lighted smoking equipment. Note: E-cigarettes are not included.

*Reasonable Distance:* understood as a distance from any entrance of a place of employment that does not allow smoke from the outside back into the inside of the building.

### Enforcement & Fine Structure:

The Department of Justice is authorized to enforce the statewide smoke-free air law through local law enforcement agencies. Violations of the law can be reported to local law enforcement or anonymously on the website listed below after July 5, 2010.

Any individual in violation of the law will be fined \$100 to \$250. Any person in charge who violates the law will be fined \$100. The first violation requires a warning\* and the maximum daily fine is \$100 regardless of the number of violations.

\*Any person in charge who does not take appropriate action as outlined below will also be fined.

Person in charge provisions: A person in charge of a workplace:

- can't provide matches or ashtrays in any indoor workplaces
- must post adequate signage
- ask any person violating the law to stop smoking or leave the premises
- refuse service to any person violating the law in the case of restaurants, bars, and private clubs
- notify law enforcement if the person refuses to comply

### Limits on local authority to regulate smoking:

Local authorities (city, county, village, towns) may further restrict outside smoking on public properties such as parks, fairgrounds, and the like. Local authorities may not define the term reasonable distance or set any set number of feet as being a reasonable distance. Restaurants, taverns, private clubs, and retail establishments may designate an outside area a reasonable distance from any entrance where people can smoke.

For more information on the smoke-free air law or for resources for businesses and employees, visit:

[www.wibetterSmokefree.com](http://www.wibetterSmokefree.com)

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### Smoking is prohibited in the following places:

- State Capitol and immediate vicinity
- Residence halls of colleges and universities
- Day care centers and outside of a day care center when children are present
- Educational facilities
- Correctional facilities (and on the grounds of juvenile correction facilities)
- State institutions (mental health, developmentally disabled persons)
- All restaurants and taverns
- All retail establishments and theaters
- All bowling centers
- Private clubs (any facility used by an organization that limits membership and is organized for recreational, social, political etc. purposes)
- Common areas of multi-unit residential properties
- Hotels, motels, bed & breakfasts, and tourist rooming houses
- All municipal buildings
- Sports Arenas of all kinds including Lambeau Field, Miller Park, gymnasiums, & swimming pools, skating rinks, race tracks (whether or not they fit the definition of an enclosed space)
- A reasonable distance from smoke-free places/entrances
- Bus shelters, public transit, taxis, limousines
- Health and medical centers including hospitals, physician's offices, treatment centers
- Inpatient health care facilities (county home, nursing homes, hospice, veteran's home)
- All other enclosed places other than list above that are places of employment or public places

### Smoking is permitted in the following indoor places:

- Tobacco retailers\*\* who generate more than 75% of its revenue from the sale of tobacco not including cigarettes
- Tobacco bars\*\* which generate 15% or more of its revenue from the sale of cigars or pipe tobacco (vending machines are not included)
- Private residences
- Certain residence rooms in assisted living facilities which are designated as smoking

\*\*Tobacco retailers and tobacco bars must be in existence by 6/3/09; smoking of cigarettes is prohibited



## Questions about the Smoke-Free Law?

Contact Emily, *Health Educator*, Winnebago County Health Department  
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