

**The Everett Board of Health  
Regulation Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products**

**A. Statement of Purpose:**

Whereas there exists conclusive evidence that tobacco smoke causes cancer, respiratory and cardiac diseases, negative birth outcomes, irritations to the eyes, nose and throat; and whereas more than eighty percent of all smokers begin smoking before the age of eighteen years (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Youth Surveillance - United States 2000," 50 MMWR 1 (Nov. 2000)); and whereas nationally in 2000, sixty nine percent of middle school age children who smoke at least once a month were not asked to show proof of age when purchasing cigarettes (Id.); and whereas the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has concluded that nicotine is as addictive as cocaine or heroin; and whereas despite state laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors, access by minors to tobacco products is a major problem; now, therefore it is the intention of the Everett Board of Health to curtail the access of tobacco products by minors.

Whereas tobacco is currently sold in health care institutions such as pharmacies and drug stores and the sale of tobacco products is incompatible with the mission of health care institutions because it is detrimental to the public health and undermines efforts to educate patients on the safe and effective use of medication, therefore, in recognition of the harmful effects of tobacco on vulnerable populations, the Everett Board of Health believes that it is important that the sale of tobacco products be banned in health care institutions in the City of Everett in furtherance of its mission to protect, promote and preserve the health and well-being of Everett residents.

**B. Authority:**

This regulation is promulgated pursuant to the authority granted to the Everett Board of Health by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Section 31 that "Boards of Health may make reasonable health regulations."

**C. Definitions:**

For the purpose of this regulation, the following words shall have the following meanings:

**Business Agent:** An individual who has been designated by the owner or operator of any establishment to be the manager or otherwise in charge of said establishment.

**Employee:** Any individual who performs services for an employer.

**Employer:** Any individual, partnership, association, corporation, trust or other organized group of individuals, including Everett or any agency thereof, which uses the services of one (1) or more employees.

**Health Care Institution:** An individual, partnership, association, corporation or trust or any person or group of persons that provides health care services and employs health care providers licensed, or subject to licensing, by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health under

M.G.L. ch. 112 and an establishment that provides pharmaceutical goods and services and subject to the provisions of 247 CMR 6.00. Health care institution includes, but is not limited to, hospitals, clinics, health centers, pharmacies, drug stores, doctor offices and dentist offices.

Membership association (also known as a private club): A not-for-profit entity that has been established and operates for a charitable, philanthropic, civic, social, benevolent, educational, religious, athletic, recreation or similar purpose, and is comprised of members who collectively belong to: (i) a society, organization or association of a fraternal nature that operates under the lodge system, and having one or more affiliated chapters or branches incorporated in any state; or (ii) a corporation organized under chapter 180; or (iii) an established religious place of worship or instruction in the commonwealth whose real or personal property is exempt from taxation; or (iv) a veterans' organization incorporated or chartered by Congress of the United States, or otherwise, having one or more affiliated chapters by the Congress of the United States, or otherwise, having one or more affiliated chapters or branches incorporated in any state. Except for a religious place of worship or instruction, an entity shall not be a membership association for the purpose of this definition, unless individual membership containing not less than full membership costs and benefits is required for all members of the association for a period of not less than 90 days.

Minor: Any individual who is under the age of eighteen (18).

Permit Holder: Any person engaged in the sale or distribution of tobacco products directly to consumers who applies for and receives a tobacco sales permit or any person who is required to apply for a tobacco sales permit pursuant to these regulations, or his or her business agent.

Person: An individual, employer, employee, retail store manager or owner, or the owner or operator of any establishment engaged in the sale or distribution of tobacco products directly to consumers.

Self Service Display: Any display from which customers may select a tobacco product without assistance from an employee or store personnel, excluding vending machines.

Tobacco Product: Cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, bidis, snuff or tobacco in any of its forms.

Vending Machine: Any automated or mechanical self service device, which upon insertion of money, tokens or any other form of payment, dispenses cigarettes or any other tobacco product.

#### **D. Tobacco Sales to Minors Prohibited:**

1. No person shall sell tobacco products or permit tobacco products to be sold to a minor; or not being the minor's parent or legal guardian, give tobacco products to a minor.

2. In conformance with and in addition to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 270, Section 7, a copy of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 270, Section 6, shall be posted conspicuously by the owner or other person in charge thereof in the shop or other place used to sell tobacco products at retail. The notice shall be provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and made available from the Everett Board of Health or its designated agent(s). The

notice shall be at least 48 square inches and shall be posted conspicuously by the permit holder in the retail establishment or other place in such a manner so that it may be readily seen by a person standing at or approaching the cash register. The notice shall directly face the purchaser and shall not be obstructed from view or placed at a height of less than four (4) feet or greater than nine (9) feet from the floor.

3. Identification: Each person selling or distributing tobacco products shall verify the age of the purchaser by means of government-issued photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth that the purchaser is 18 years old or older. Verification is required for any person under the age of 27.

4. All retail sales of tobacco must be face-to-face between the seller and the buyer.

#### **E. Tobacco Sales Permit:**

1. No person shall sell or otherwise distribute tobacco at retail within Everett without first obtaining a tobacco sales permit issued annually by the Everett Board of Health or its designated agent(s). Only owners of establishments with a permanent, non-mobile location in Everett are eligible to apply for a permit and sell tobacco products at the specified location in Everett.

2. As part of the tobacco sales permit application process, the applicant will be provided with the Everett Board of Health regulation. Each applicant is required to sign a statement declaring that the applicant has read said regulation and that the applicant is responsible for instructing any and all employees who will be responsible for tobacco sales regarding both state laws regarding the sale of tobacco and this regulation.

3. Each applicant is required to provide proof of a current tobacco sales license issued by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue before a tobacco sales permit can be issued.

4. The fee for a tobacco sales permit shall be determined by the Everett Board of Health annually. All such permits shall be renewed annually by January 1.

5. A separate permit is required for each retail establishment selling tobacco.

6. Each tobacco sales permit shall be displayed at the retail establishment in a conspicuous place.

7. No tobacco sales permit holder shall allow any employee to sell cigarettes or other tobacco products until such employee reads this regulation and state laws regarding the sale of tobacco and signs a statement, a copy of which will be placed on file in the office of the employer, that he/she has read the regulation and applicable state laws.

8. A tobacco sales permit is non-transferable. A new owner of an establishment that sells tobacco must apply for a new tobacco sales permit. No new permit will be issued unless and until all outstanding penalties incurred by the previous permit holder are satisfied in full.

9. Issuance of a tobacco sales permit shall be conditioned on an applicant's consent to unannounced, periodic inspections of his/her retail establishment to ensure compliance with this regulation.

10. A tobacco sales permit will not be renewed if the permit holder has failed to pay all fines issued and the time period to appeal the fines has expired.

**F. Free Distribution:**

No person shall distribute, or cause to be distributed, any free samples of tobacco products.

**G. Out-of-Package Sales:**

No person may sell or cause to be sold or distribute or cause to be distributed, any cigarette package that contains fewer than twenty (20) cigarettes, including single cigarettes.

**H. Self Service Displays:**

All self service displays of tobacco products are prohibited.

**I. Tobacco Vending Machines:**

All tobacco vending machines are prohibited unless located in a membership association (also known as a private club) as of January 1, 2010.

**J. Prohibition of the Sale of Tobacco Products by Health Care Institutions:**

No health care institution located in the City of Everett shall sell or cause to be sold tobacco products. No retail establishment that operates or has a health care institution within it, such as a pharmacy or drug store, shall sell or cause to be sold tobacco products; except those wholesalers licensed under chapter sixty two, section sixty seven of the Massachusetts General Laws may sell tobacco for wholesale only to resellers who possess a valid Massachusetts Tobacco Retailer License and who are registered through the Department of Revenue to collect sales tax. Additionally, tobacco products sold by wholesalers shall be stored away from the retail sales area and not visible to non-resellers.

**K. Violations:**

1. It shall be the responsibility of the permit holder and/or his or her business agent to ensure compliance with all sections of this regulation pertaining to his or her distribution of tobacco. The violator shall receive:

a. In the case of a first violation, a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

b. In the case of a second violation within twenty-four (24) months of the date of the current violation, a fine of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and the tobacco sales permit shall be suspended for seven (7) consecutive business days.

c. In the case of three or more violations within a twenty-four (24) month period, a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) and the tobacco sales permit shall be suspended for thirty (30) consecutive business days.

2. Refusal to cooperate with inspections pursuant to this regulation shall result in the suspension of the tobacco sales permit for thirty (30) consecutive business days.

3. In addition to the monetary fines set above, any permit holder who engages in the sale or distribution of tobacco products directly to a consumer while his or her permit is suspended shall be subject to the suspension of all permits issued by the Board of Health or its designated agent(s) for thirty (30) consecutive business days.

4. The Everett Board of Health shall provide notice of the intent to suspend a tobacco sales permit, which notice shall contain the reasons therefor and establish a time and date for a hearing which date shall be no earlier than seven (7) days after the date of said notice. The permit holder or its business agent shall have an opportunity to be heard at such hearing and shall be notified of the Board of Health's decision, and the reasons therefore in writing. After a hearing, the Everett Board of Health shall suspend the tobacco sales permit if the Board finds that a sale to a minor occurred. For purposes of such suspensions, the Board shall make the determination notwithstanding any separate criminal or non-criminal proceedings brought in court hereunder or under the Massachusetts General Laws for the same offense. All tobacco products shall be removed from the retail establishment upon suspension of the tobacco sales permit. Failure to remove all tobacco products shall constitute a separate violation of this regulation.

**L. Non-Criminal Disposition:**

Whoever violates any provision of this regulation may be penalized by the non-criminal method of disposition as provided in General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21 D or by filing a criminal complaint at the appropriate venue.

Each day any violation exists shall be deemed to be a separate offense.

**M. Enforcement:**

Enforcement of this regulation shall be by the Board of Health of Everett or its designated agent(s).

Any citizen who desires to register a complaint pursuant to the regulation may do so by contacting the Board of Health of Everett or its designated agent(s) and the Board shall investigate.

**N: Severability:**

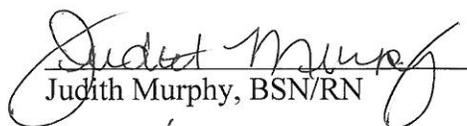
If any provision of these regulations is declared invalid or unenforceable, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby but shall continue in full force and effect.

**O. Effective Date:**

This regulation shall take effect on August 15, 2010.

  
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Sean Connolly, DPM

5/26/15  
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Date

  
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Judith Murphy, BSN/RN

5/26/15  
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Date

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**CITY OF EVERETT  
MASSACHUSETTS**



**BOARD OF HEALTH**

SEAN F. CONNOLLY, DPM  
CHAIR  
JUDITH A. MURPHY, BSN/RN  
MEMBER

May 6, 2015

Dear Tobacco Retailer:

This letter serves to inform you of an amendment to Everett’s “Regulation Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products”, enacted by the Everett Board of Health on September 22, 2014. A copy of this updated regulation was mailed to you on November 13, 2014. Please read the pertinent information detailed below as the changes will have a direct impact on your business. This regulation will go into effect on **December 1, 2014**.

The Everett Board of Health voted to replace the current “Tobacco Product” definition that reads:

Tobacco Product: Cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, bidis, snuff or tobacco in any of its forms.

And replaced it with the following broader definition:

Tobacco Product: Any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to: cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff, or electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipes, electronic hookah, or other similar products, regardless of nicotine content, that rely on vaporization or aerosolization. “Tobacco product” includes any component or part of a tobacco product. “Tobacco product” does not include any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration either as a tobacco use cessation product or for other medical purposes and which is being marketed and sold or prescribed solely for the approved purpose.

This definition change means that the sale of electronic cigarettes, and any other similar product that relies on vaporization, will be treated the same as traditional tobacco products. Therefore, the following will apply:

- Sales to Minors is Prohibited
- A Permit to Sell is Required
- Free Distribution is Prohibited
- Vending Machines and Self-Service Displays are Prohibited
- Sales in Health Care Institutions are Prohibited
- Penalties will apply to Violators

Please contact our office at 617-394-2255 if you have any questions.

  
Sean F. Connolly, DPM

5/26/15  
Date

  
Judith Murphy, BSN/RN

5/26/15  
Date