



# SHARE THE AIR

Smoke- and tobacco-free campus  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## ENFORCEMENT GUIDE

### Overview

- At the University of Minnesota, we're committed to promoting and protecting the health and well-being of all campus community members. That's why we're proud to be smoke and tobacco free. Our goal? To create a healthier, cleaner, and more inclusive environment for everyone.
- University facilities, buildings, and grounds on the Duluth, Crookston, Rochester, and Twin Cities campuses have been smoke and tobacco free since July 1, 2014. All students, staff, faculty, and visitors are prohibited from smoking and using, selling, free distributing, and advertising tobacco products and electronic cigarettes in all facilities and on all University property.
- Creating a supportive, positive, and healthy smoke- and tobacco-free environment for the entire campus is a shared responsibility. We encourage students, staff, faculty, and visitors to promote compliance with the policy.

### Your Role

All campus leaders are important partners in successfully and effectively implementing this policy. Your role is to:

1. Communicate the policy courteously and non-confrontationally to faculty, staff, students, and visitors in your college/department.
2. Connect faculty, staff, and students with appropriate resources, including cessation resources.
3. Address matters of repeated violations of this policy just as you would violations of other policies. Managers/supervisors should hold employees accountable, and address matters of repeated violations. Contact your college or administrative unit's HR Professional for consultation if needed. It is important that we are assessing the impact of the repeated violation in relation to the University's values and expectations.

### Approaching Someone Who is Using Tobacco

As members of the University community, we all play an important role in communicating about the smoke- and tobacco-free campus policy. If you see someone using tobacco on campus, you are encouraged to remind people of the initiative if you feel comfortable doing so. If you do approach someone, please do so in a friendly, respectful manner – the person may not be aware of the policy. If someone becomes agitated or hostile upon being approached, please do not escalate the situation – simply walk away. If the situation escalates to the point where you feel threatened or endangered, please call 911.

These scenarios and scripts are designed to help members of the University community remind people of the smoke- and tobacco-free campus policy.

- **Situation:** You see a person using tobacco products on campus.  
**Response:** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am an (employee, student) here at the University of Minnesota. I want to let you know that we are now a smoke- and tobacco-free campus. All students, staff, faculty, and visitors are prohibited from smoking and using tobacco products and electronic cigarettes on all University property. Thank you for your cooperation.
- **Situation:** "Where am I allowed to smoke?"  
**Response:** The University of Minnesota is a smoke- and tobacco-free campus. All students, staff, faculty, and visitors are prohibited from smoking and using tobacco products and electronic cigarettes on all University property. You will need to leave the campus to smoke or use tobacco products. Thank you for respecting our policy.

- **Situation:** You are making arrangements with a vendor or contractor.  
**Response:** The University of Minnesota is a smoke- and tobacco-free campus. We respectfully ask that representatives from your organization refrain from smoking and using tobacco products and electronic cigarettes on all University property.
- **Situation:** You want to proactively communicate the smoke- and tobacco-free campus policy to prospective employees and prospective students and their families prior to their visit to the University of Minnesota campus.  
**Response:** I would like to let you know that the University of Minnesota is a smoke- and tobacco-free campus. All students, staff, faculty, and visitors are prohibited from smoking and using tobacco products and electronic cigarettes on all University property. Thank you for respecting our policy.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why is the U smoke and tobacco free?

- The U is committed to the health and well-being of everyone on campus
- The smoke- and tobacco-free policy was adopted based on:
  - the wealth of research documenting the health risks associated with tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure
  - assessments of regional and national trends
  - input from the campus community.
- The policy will:
  - allow the nonsmoking majority of the campus to breathe fresh air without exposure to the Class A carcinogens in secondhand smoke
  - provide a supportive environment for the many smokers trying to quit
  - reduce the number of people who currently use tobacco
  - reduce the number of people who initiate tobacco use
  - dramatically reduce the number one groundskeeping and cleanup expense for the U
  - reduce absenteeism and health care costs

### Why is the U both smoke and tobacco free?

Because of the negative health and environmental impacts of all tobacco products, the U has a tobacco-free policy rather than just a smoke-free policy.

### Why are electronic cigarettes prohibited?

E-cigarettes are designed to deliver high amounts of nicotine to the user—more than two times the amount approved by the FDA for smoking cessation aids. Little is known about the long-term health effects of e-cigarettes, but many ingredients are known to cause lung and cardiac inflammation, cancer, and cell damage.

### What areas of campus does the smoke- and tobacco-free campus policy cover?

The smoke- and tobacco-free campus policy covers all property, buildings, and facilities under the primary control of the University of Minnesota through ownership, lease, or other means. Campus maps can be viewed at [sharetheair.umn.edu](http://sharetheair.umn.edu).

## Resources

- Share the Air ([sharetheair.umn.edu](http://sharetheair.umn.edu)): Resources and frequently asked questions
- Boynton Health ([boynton.umn.edu](http://boynton.umn.edu)): Nicotine dependence counseling, nicotine replacement therapy, and prescription medications

**“The University is committed to protecting the health and well-being of all campus community members. We all ‘share the air,’ and a smoke- and tobacco-free environment will provide many benefits to our community.”**

**—President Eric W. Kaler**