



## **NEW Requirements for Contra Costa County Secondhand Smoke Protections Law**

May 1, 2019

Dear Contra Costa County Business Owners, Managers and Landlords:

Please be informed that The *Contra Costa County Secondhand Smoke Protections Ordinance* was amended in March 2018 to prohibit smoking in multi-unit residence dwellings including condominiums and townhomes, and hotels and motels including all guest rooms. **All units and leases must be in compliance no later than July 1, 2019.** "Smoking", includes use of tobacco products, electronic smoking devices (like electronic cigarettes), and marijuana. This ordinance applies to the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa.

### **Where smoking is prohibited in the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County:**

- Within 20 feet of doors, operable windows, air ducts, and ventilation systems of any enclosed place of employment and enclosed places open to the public
- In outdoor dining areas, restaurants, and outdoor lounges (including dining areas at places of employment)
- In public parks and on public trails
- In service areas (such as ATM lines, ticket lines, and bus stops)
- At public events
- In any indoor workplace or indoor area open to the public, including tobacco shops and owner or volunteer operated businesses
- Any County-owned or leased building

### **Smoking is also prohibited in the following areas of all multi-unit housing residences with 2 or more units in the unincorporated county:**

- Within 20 feet of doors, operable windows, air ducts, and ventilation systems of multi-unit housing units
- In common indoor and outdoor areas (e.g. laundry room, swimming pool)
- On all balconies, patios, decks and carports of multi-unit housing residences
- In 100% of all units of new and existing multi-unit housing residences

### **In addition, landlords of multi-unit housing with 2 or more units in the unincorporated county must:**

- Disclose the policy for handling smoking complaints in effect at the multi-unit housing residence, and provide a copy of that policy to each tenant along with every new lease or rental agreement for the occupancy of a unit in a multi-unit housing residence.

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### **What Owners, Operators or Managers Must Do:**

- Every lease and other rental agreement for the occupancy of a dwelling unit in a multi-unit residence that is entered into, renewed, or continued month-to-month must include that smoking is prohibited in all dwelling units starting July 1, 2018
- Post “No Smoking” signs with letters of not less than one inch in height, or the international “No Smoking” symbol (consisting of a burning cigarette in a red circle with a red bar across it, see example to the right), visibly on the exterior of every building or other place where smoking is regulated. While not required by law, it may be helpful to add information to signage indicating that the use of electronic cigarettes is also prohibited in smoke-free areas. It is not required to post “no smoking” signage inside or on the doorway of any dwelling unit in a multi-unit residence
- Do not allow ashtrays or other receptacles for disposing of smoking material where smoking is prohibited
- Do not knowingly allow smoking in smoking prohibited areas



Landlords and owners who fail to comply with the ordinance may face administrative fines of \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for the second violation within a year and \$500 for each additional violation within a year. Landlords who fail to comply with this ordinance may be subject to other legal claims by tenants.

A full copy of the law, signage, sample lease addendum and other landlord resources, as well as information about the harmful effects of secondhand smoke exposure are available through the Contra Costa Health Services Tobacco Prevention Project's website at <http://cchealth.org/tobacco/secondhand-smoke/> or by calling 925-313-6214. Information about quitting smoking is available by calling the California Smoker's Helpline at 1-800-NO-BUTTS or <https://www.nobutts.org/>

We look forward to working with you to create a healthy smoke-free environment in compliance with this law.

Sincerely,

Dan Peddycord, RN, MPA/HA  
Director of Public Health  
Contra Costa Health Services

