



LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
3131 "O" Street Lincoln, NE 68510-1514
402-441-8000 fax: 402-441-6229



December 27, 2019

Dear Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Retailers:

On December 16, 2019, the Lincoln City Council voted unanimously to make several changes to the Lincoln Municipal Code to protect the health of our community. Most notable was the inclusion of vapor products in Chapter 8.50 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. As a result, **effective January 1, 2020**, electronic cigarette use (vaping) will be prohibited in all places of employment and indoor public places in Lincoln. The Health Department will follow-up with businesses on all complaints of possible violations of smoking or vaping in a place of employment or indoor public place for education and assistance in complying with the ordinance.

In addition, Chapter 9.28 of the Lincoln Municipal Code was also amended to be congruent with the Nebraska state law changing the age to legally sell tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 19 years of age. This ordinance change will also go into effect on **January 1, 2020**.

However, please know the United States government recently enacted a new law prohibiting the sale of all tobacco and vaping products to individuals under the age of 21. The City of Lincoln is delaying seeking a corresponding change in the minimum age to purchase tobacco and vaping products to 21 years old in order to provide time for the State of Nebraska to amend state law. Until such time as an ordinance change occurs, local compliance checks conducted by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) and our local law enforcement partners will be using age 19 to determine compliance with state law and the City's ordinance. For additional information about compliance of the recently enacted federal law, please visit: www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/compliance-enforcement-training

Our Health Department Tobacco Prevention Team is an excellent source for additional education and resources. Please contact them for any assistance including "no smoking, no electronic cigarette" door decal signage available to businesses, a frequently asked questions (FAQ) sheet, a copy of the updated ordinances, and other resources to help with implementation. They can be reached by visiting lincoln.ne.gov keyword: tobacco or calling 402-441-8045.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia D. Lopez".

Health Director
Pat D. Lopez, RN, MSN

