



Secondhand Smoke Protections in Tribal Communities

Mission and Core Values

To provide commercial tobacco secondhand smoke awareness and resources to New Mexico tribal communities, improving health outcomes.

Respect, Culture, Family Responsibility to Community, Humility, Health, Love, Empowerment, Sustainability, and Community

Tobacco in the News

FDA announcements spur mixed reviews by *The Hill*

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is raising eyebrows with talk of cracking down on nicotine levels in cigarettes and flavored tobacco products, including menthol.



The agency on 7/28 said it's planning to look at reducing nicotine in cigarettes to nonaddictive levels, a policy change that would likely have huge repercussions for the tobacco industry.

The FDA said it would issue a regulatory notice "to seek input on the potential public health benefits and any possible adverse effects of lowering nicotine in cigarettes."

Health advocates who want tougher action against cigarettes aren't celebrating the announcement; they say the process mapped out by the FDA could take years and express doubts the agency will ultimately follow through.

"We're concerned about how long a product standard on reducing the addictiveness of cigarettes is going to take based on the process outlined on Friday (7/28)," said Erika Sward, a spokeswoman for the American Lung Association.

While the FDA's plans for nicotine left anti-smoking groups hopeful, the agency's delay - announced the same day - of product reviews for cigars and electronic cigarettes dampened their excitement.

The FDA said it's giving e-cigarette manufacturers until 2022 to submit pre-market applications for products that were on the market before the new rules took effect on Aug. 8, 2016. Manufacturers of newly regulated combustible products, including cigars, pipe tobacco and hookah tobacco, have until Aug. 8, 2021, to submit applications for market approval.

"FDA's move to lower nicotine levels and take a harder look at how flavored tobacco products attract the young is to be commended," Nancy Brown, CEO of the American Heart Association, said in a statement Friday.

"However, the association is disappointed with the agency's decision to delay certain e-cigarette and cigar compliance deadlines. Altering the deadline for FDA review of e-cigarettes and cigars is a troubling step and one that we will closely monitor."

Read the full article [here](#).

Tobacco in the News

Maine Smoking Age Jumps to 21

Next July, Maine will become the fourth state to have a smoking age of 21 and older, the [New York Times](#) reports. Last week, legislators voted to overturn Gov. Paul LePage's veto of the measure.

TOBACCO
~~eighteen~~ twenty-one

LePage had objected to the bill, labeling it as trying to "engineer our lives." He also said it wasn't fair to ask 18-year-olds to join the military and not have a choice on tobacco usage.

State Sen. Paul Davis, who sponsored the bill, said LePage didn't get the purpose of the new law. "People who join the military don't have 15-year-old kids following them around and being impressed by their actions," Davis said. "It's about the availability of cigarettes in schools."

The law will take effect July 1, 2018. The change applies to hookah pipes, smoking accessories and electronic cigarettes, as well as traditional tobacco products.

Other states considering upping the age restriction to 21 for tobacco products this year include Michigan, Washington, Texas, Arizona, Oregon, Nebraska, Connecticut, Vermont and Florida. Currently, only California, New Jersey and Hawaii have statewide restrictions on being 21 to buy tobacco, although around 200 other localities have also raised the minimum tobacco purchase age above 18. For more, read "[Must Be 21 to Buy](#)" in NACS Magazine.

Event Calendar

Catch Smoke Free Signals as guest presenters for National Native Network and Indian Health Service's upcoming webinar!



Listen in tomorrow, August 9th from 3 to 4 PM MST to "It Stinks! Secondhand and Thirdhand Smoke."



Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

By the end of the webinar, participants will be able to:

1. Examine the health consequences of commercial secondhand smoke on youth, elders, and community members
2. Implement strategies to reduce exposure to "sticky" commercial thirdhand smoke
3. Employ discussions that empower community members to create environmental policies to protect their health from secondhand smoke

Target Audience: Nurses, health educators, administrators, and support staff working with American Indian and/or Alaska Native communities.

Continuing Education certificates are available. [Register for the webinar!](#)

What now?

We encourage you to read all the articles in this and upcoming newsletters, and to share and forward these emails to people within your network to help keep everyone up to date!



This is a free notification service that provides the latest on commercial and traditional tobacco news, events, topics and successes.

View an archive of past newsletters [here](#). Sign up to receive future newsletters [here](#).

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