



November 14, 2019

Dear Tobacco/Paraphernalia Retailers,

As of October 17, 2019 it is illegal to give, sell, or otherwise distribute cigarettes, other tobacco products, or alternative nicotine products like e-cigarette/vaping products to any person under the age of twenty-one (21) in the state of Ohio (ORC. 2927.02). There is no grandfathering clause for those who are eighteen (18) years old before the effective date of this law. As we have done since July of 2018, Summit County Public Health will continue to conduct undercover buys and enforcement (including fines) for sales of these products to those under the age of 21.

Highlights of the new law include:

- Sales are prohibited to anyone under the age of 21. ID checks must be performed at the retail level.
- Vape shops must obtain a license from the county auditor.
- The law expands the definition of what is considered a tobacco product including all vapor products and e-liquids, even those that do not contain nicotine.
- Tobacco 21 signs and flyers will be provided by the Ohio Department of Health (Ohiotobacco21.gov) and Summit County Public Health (330-926-5600) to post at points of transaction and on display cases containing tobacco products and paraphernalia. Points of transaction include cash registers and sales counters.
- There will be a tax on e-liquids in the amount of \$0.10/ml liquid at wholesale.

To learn more about Tobacco 21, types of products covered by this law and other requirements please visit **Ohiotobacco21.gov**. We look forward to working with you and please contact our agency or the Ohio Department of Health for any additional questions.

Summit County Public Health
Environmental Health Division
Phone: 330-926-5600

ODH Tobacco Program
Phone: 614-728-2429
Email: TobaccoPrevention@odh.ohio.gov

Sincerely,

Tonia W. Burford, M.S., R.S.
Environmental Health Director