



## Why Adopt A Commercial Tobacco-Free Grounds Policy as Your “New Normal”

The American Lung Association encourages organizations to adopt a commercial tobacco-free grounds policy. Lung health is more important than ever, and since people who smoke are at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19, it is an ideal time to implement a comprehensive tobacco-free grounds policy.

### Reasons to Take Action Now

- **Support Racial and Health Equity**
  - Communities of color and American Indians are disproportionately impacted by both COVID-19 and the health impacts of tobacco use, so implementing a tobacco-free grounds policy will help improve lung health for all.
- **Help Enforce Your Mask Policy and Reduce the Spread**
  - In order to smoke or vape, a person must remove their face mask which puts the individual and others at risk for COVID-19. Also, when a person smokes or vapes, they touch their face and mouth more often, which may increase the risk of spreading or contracting COVID-19.
- **Limiting Gatherings and Encourage Physical Distancing**
  - When smoking or vaping is allowed on premise, people congregate in areas where it is permitted, making physical distancing challenging. By eliminating smoking and vaping on the grounds, you are limiting face-to-face contact with others and helping reduce the spread of COVID-19.

### Benefits of Implementing a Tobacco-Free Grounds Policy:



Utilize more outdoor space for physical distancing



Reduce risk of COVID-19 among clients and staff



Enhance tobacco dependence treatment support and improve the health of everyone who uses the grounds

### The American Lung Association can help you implement a tobacco-free grounds policy!

To receive support and additional resources, contact Heidi Larson at [Heidi.Larson@Lung.org](mailto:Heidi.Larson@Lung.org) or at 651-337-5104.

*Note: Tobacco in this document refers specifically to the use of manufactured, commercial tobacco products, and not to the sacred, medicinal, and traditional use of tobacco by American Indians and other groups.*