



1819 Farnam St., Room 401, Omaha, Nebraska, 68183-0401

Promoting and Protecting Public Health

For Immediate Release: May 29, 2009

Contact: Phil Rooney, 444-6427

Click Here to File Smoking Complaints

Local law enforcement will not be visiting businesses to see if people are violating Nebraska's new smoke-free law. The statewide law which goes into effect June 1 prohibits smoking at virtually all indoor public places and workplaces.

But you can do something if you see a violation.

"This new law will be enforced on a complaint basis," said Doug Clark, Division Chief of Environmental Health for the Douglas County Health Department. "That means, it is up to the citizens to report the violation and then we can take the appropriate action."

One way to do that is by filing a complaint online with the Douglas County Health Department at http://www.douglascountyhealth.com/living/smoking_form.php. If the violation is outside of Douglas County, complaints can be filed with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services at 1-877-633-7331 or smoke.free@dhhs.ne.gov.

According to the American Cancer Society, tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of disease and death in the United States, accounting for an estimated 438,000 premature deaths, including 38,000 deaths among nonsmokers as a result of secondhand smoke. Half of all Americans who continue to smoke will die from smoking-related diseases.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Tobacco Free Nebraska Program sponsors the Nebraska Tobacco Quitline, which offers tobacco cessation counseling and support service around the clock free of charge.

The Quitline, at 1-800-QUIT-NOW offers telephone counseling, self-help materials and referrals to local programs.

This project is supported in part by Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare through funding provided by Nebraska Health and Human Services System/Tobacco Free Nebraska Program as a result of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

www.douglascountyhealth.com

Adi Pour, Ph.D., Director
1819 Farnam St., #401
Omaha, NE 68183