



UNIVERSITY POLICY

Section: 20.1.22

Section Title: Administrative: Administrative Policies, Procedures, and Services

Policy Name: Tobacco Free Policy

Formerly Book: 6.4.12; 60.1.10

Approval Authority: Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Responsible Executive: Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Responsible Office: Institutional Planning and Operations

Adopted: 05/14/1982 (University Regulation 30.36)

Reviewed: 01/01/2023; 03/09/2023

Revised: 12/10/1993; 02/15/2006; 07/01/2013; 10/10/2013 (Updated title), 03/04/2016; 06/06/2016; 07/28/2021; 01/01/2023; 03/09/2023

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1. Policy Statement

The policy outlines the prohibition of smoking and tobacco use on all campuses, as designated in section II, including but not limited to University-owned or -leased vehicles and recreation areas. Moreover, this policy outlines the procedures to be undertaken to enforce this policy. This policy reflects Rutgers' commitment to the protection of the health of its students, employees, patients, and visitors by creating a safe and healthy environment.

2. Reason for Policy

To provide guidelines regarding the prohibition of smoking and tobacco use in compliance with New Jersey State law and applicable regulations and in compliance with Rutgers policy.

3. Who Should Read this Policy

All members of the Rutgers University community.

4. Resources

New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act

N.J.S.A. 26:3D-55, et seq. (known as the "New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act") and N.J.A.C. 8:6-1.1 et seq.

5. Definitions

“Tobacco product” means any substance containing tobacco leaf, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, hookah tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, bidis, blunts, clove cigarettes, or any other preparation of tobacco; and any product or formulation of matter containing biologically active amounts of nicotine that is manufactured, sold, offered for sale, or otherwise distributed with the expectation that the product or matter will be introduced into the human body by inhalation, ingestion, or absorption; but does not include any cessation product specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in treating nicotine or tobacco dependence.

6. The Policy

I. Introduction

In accordance with the New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act, which was enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (“Rutgers” or “University”), has adopted a policy to prohibit smoking in any portion of a building that is owned and operated by Rutgers. In addition, Rutgers’ policy prohibits the use of all tobacco products on each of its campuses, including all outdoor areas on campus grounds.

II. Tobacco Free Areas

Smoking and tobacco use shall be prohibited in classrooms, lecture halls, auditoriums, and in any portion of a building used as a dormitory that is owned and operated by Rutgers. Smoking and tobacco use are prohibited on all campus grounds. This prohibition on smoking and tobacco use shall include gymnasiums, playing fields, and other recreational areas. Smoking and tobacco use are also prohibited in all University-owned or -leased vehicles. Electronic smoking devices are also prohibited in the same locations and in the same manner as set forth above.

Note that in accordance with Section 47 of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act, the use of cannabis is also prohibited in any indoor or outdoor space on all Rutgers campuses throughout the State of New Jersey.

III. Implementation

The prohibition on smoking and tobacco use is effective in all University and on all outdoor campus grounds, effective immediately. The Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer shall be responsible for informing all members of the University community about the ban.

The directors of Student Health Services on all campuses shall be responsible for providing educational opportunities and tobacco use cessation programs for any interested student or employee.

IV. Enforcement

Adherence to these regulations is mandatory and all faculty, staff, and students are expected to comply with them. Responsibility for enforcement of the regulations with respect to employees lies, in the first instance, with the department chair or the supervisor of the individual who is in violation of the regulations. Department chairs and supervisors should receive complaints and pursue them to resolution or, if resolution cannot be achieved, refer them in writing to the dean or department head.

Complaints about students residing in University housing should be directed initially to a residence life staff member and/or the executive director for residence life.

V. Exemptions

Approved Rutgers research-related activities with documented approvals from the applicable oversight committees and departments (e.g., the Rutgers Institutional Review Board; IRB; Rutgers Environmental Health & Safety REHS; and Institutional Planning and Operations) IP&O may proceed with tobacco product-related research activities, including e-cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products, with the agreed-upon conditions and locations identified that are suitable for research activities.