

# TOBACCO AND SMOKE FREE POLICY

## Introduction

Tobacco dependence is our nation's most preventable cause of death and disease. Nationally, tobacco use is responsible for nearly one in five deaths or an estimated 440,000 deaths per year in the United States or approximately 1,200 people each day. This figure is greater than the deaths caused by alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, homicide, suicide, car crashes, fires and AIDS combined. Tobacco use is the No. 1 cause of all cancers and emphysema, and it is a leading preventable cause of heart disease and stroke. Tobacco use among pregnant women contributes to low birth weight and premature delivery. Besides lung cancer, tobacco use also causes increased risk for cancer of the mouth, nasal cavities, larynx, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, liver, pancreas, kidney, bladder, uterine, cervix, and myeloid leukemia. Patients who smoke have twice the risk of postoperative infection. According to the U.S. Surgeon General's Report, smoking and secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who smoke and who do not smoke. (2) children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory problems, ear infections, and asthma attacks, and that smoking by parents causes respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in their children; (3) exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer; (4) there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; (5) establishing smoke free workplaces is the only effective way to ensure that secondhand smoke exposure does not occur in the workplace, because ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot completely control for exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke; and (6) evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smoke free policies and laws do not have an adverse economic impact on the hospitality industry. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.)

## Purpose

Mississippi Valley State University is committed to promoting and providing a safe and healthy working and learning environment for its faculty, staff, students, volunteers, and visitors and hereby adopts a tobacco and smoke free policy.

## Definition

For the purpose of this policy:

- A. Smoking is defined as the use of smoke-producing tobacco products, such as cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, mini-cigars, and hookah, as well as the use of electronic smoking devices.
  - "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, or pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, including hookahs and marijuana, whether natural or synthetic, in any manner or in any form. "Smoking" also includes the use of an electronic smoking device which creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking.
- B. E-Cigarette use or Vaping is defined as the use of electronic smoking devices or electronic nicotine delivery systems. FDA-approved cessation aids, such as nicotine patches and gum, are not included in this category.
  - "Electronic Smoking Device" means any product containing or delivering nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person to simulate smoking through inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the product. The term includes any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, e-hookah, or vape pen, or under any other product name or descriptor.
- C. "Hookah" means a water pipe and any associated products and devices which are used to produce fumes, smoke, and/or vapor from the burning of material including, but not limited to, tobacco, shisha, or other plant matter.
- D. "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; 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.

## **Policy**

Accordingly, the Mississippi Valley State University finds and declares that the purposes of this policy are (1) to protect the public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking and the use of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, on the MVSU campus; (2) to guarantee the right of nonsmokers to breathe smoke free air, while recognizing that the need to breathe smoke free air shall have priority over the desire to smoke; and (3) to encourage a healthier, more productive living/learning environment for all members of our campus community.

### **Smoking and tobacco use by students, faculty, staff, guests, visitors, and contractors is prohibited on all properties owned or leased by campus, including (but not limited to):**

- All interior space on campus and property leased by the university/college, including other remote sites;
- All outside property or grounds on university campuses, including areas such as walkways, breezeways, parking lots, and patios;
- All outside property leased by the university;
- All vehicles leased or owned by the university;
- All indoor and outdoor athletic facilities.

### **Smoking and Tobacco use Prohibited on Mississippi Valley State University Campus**

In light of the above findings, the Mississippi Valley State University campus shall be entirely tobacco and smoke free effective September, 2017. The Tobacco/Smoke Free Policy applies to all Mississippi Valley State University facilities, property, and vehicles, owned or leased, regardless of location. Smoking shall not be permitted in any enclosed place, including, but not limited to, all offices, classrooms, hallways, waiting rooms, restrooms, meeting rooms, community areas, performance venues and private residential space within Mississippi Valley State University housing. Smoking/Tobacco use shall also be prohibited outdoors on all Mississippi Valley State University campus property, including, but not limited to, parking lots, paths, fields, sports/recreational areas, and stadiums, as well as in all personal vehicles while on campus. This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and other persons on campus, regardless of the purpose for their visit.

### **Promotion and Sale of Tobacco Products Prohibited on Mississippi Valley State University Campus**

In further recognition of the incompatibility of Mississippi Valley State University educational mission and the promotion of tobacco products: No tobacco-related advertising or sponsorship shall be permitted on Mississippi Valley State University property, at Mississippi Valley State University-sponsored events, or in publications produced by the Mississippi Valley State University, with the exception of advertising in a newspaper or magazine that is not produced by the Mississippi Valley State University and which is lawfully sold, bought, or distributed on Mississippi Valley State University property. For the purposes of this policy, "tobacco related" applies to the use of a tobacco brand or corporate name, trademark, logo, symbol, or motto, selling message, recognizable pattern or colors, or any other indicia of product identical to or similar to, or identifiable with, those used for any brand of tobacco products or company which manufactures tobacco products. Cigarettes, including electronic cigarettes, cigars, and pipes, including hookah pipes, shall not be sold or distributed as samples on university grounds, either in vending machines, the student union, or any area on campus.

### **Dissemination of Policy and Signage**

Copies of this policy shall be distributed to all faculty and staff and shall be included with information given to all admitted students. Information about the policy and how to comply with it shall also be posted on the Mississippi Valley State University website. Announcements concerning the policy and any changes to it shall be printed in campus newspapers and posted on the Mississippi Valley State University website to insure that everyone fully understands the policy. No Tobacco and Smoking signs shall be posted at all points of entry to the Mississippi Valley State University campus and at all Mississippi Valley State University building entrances. No ashtrays shall be provided at any location on campus.

### **Transition Period**

This policy is being announced 15 days prior to its implementation in order to give smokers time to adapt to its restrictions and to facilitate a smooth transition to a tobacco and smoke free environment. On-site smoking cessation programs shall be made available to assist and encourage individuals who wish to quit smoking. Questions and problems regarding this policy should be handled through existing departmental administrative channels and administrative procedures.

### **Compliance**

All university employees, students, visitors, guests and contractors are required to comply with this policy, which shall remain in effect at all times. Refusal to comply with this policy may be cause for disciplinary action in accordance with employee and student conduct policies. Refusal to comply with the policy by visitors, guests and contractors may be grounds for removal from campus.

## Enforcement

All members of the MVSU community share responsibility for complying with this policy. Specific enforcement of this policy is primarily the authority of the MVSU Police who are authorized to cite violators of this policy. **Auxiliary enforcement of this policy is delegated to all University Chairs, Building Managers, Directors and Supervisors.** Any violations should be addressed tactful, non-confrontational and in a compassionate manner.

## Penalties

- Students: Violators will be penalized according to the Student Code of Conduct. Students should take a caring approach when addressing peers who are not in compliance with this policy. Multiple infractions may result in stiffer corrective actions under the Student Code of Conduct, including fines and/or community service. Further violations should be reported to University Police. [https://www.mvsu.edu/university\\_policies](https://www.mvsu.edu/university_policies).
- Faculty and Staff: Violators will be penalized in accordance with the Employee Handbook (inclusive of the faculty handbook guidelines). [https://www.mvsu.edu/university\\_policies](https://www.mvsu.edu/university_policies)
- Vendors, Contractors, Volunteers: Violators will be penalized in accordance to University guidelines to include terms outlined in contractual service agreements.
- Visitors: Violators should be reported to the campus policy. Visitors refusing to comply with this policy may be asked to leave the campus.

Violators should be apprised of the policy in a tactful and compassionate manner.

## Wellness Assistance/Tobacco Cessation Resources

- Mississippi Valley State University offers its employees smoking cessation assistance through the University Health Center and the Office of Human Resources. Call 662-254-3332 or 662-254-3531 for assistance
- Mississippi Tobacco Quitline, a free telephone counseling, information, and tip line available through the Mississippi State Department of Health at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669)
- American Lung Association offers resources to help smokers discover their reasons for quitting and then assists them in quitting for good. [www.lung.org/stop-smoking/how-to-quit](http://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/how-to-quit)
- American Heart Association offers resources at [www.mylifecheck.org](http://www.mylifecheck.org), a My Life Check is a 7 question assessment that shows participants how they can may heart healthy lifestyle changes, including stop smoking information and resources
- American Cancer Society provides a Quit Smoking Guide, resources, and information on the Great American Smokeout. [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)
- Mississippi Tobacco Free Coalition of Leflore, Humphreys and Carroll Counties-[desiree.norwood@healthy-miss.org](mailto:desiree.norwood@healthy-miss.org)

## Exceptions

- The use of tobacco products in controlled laboratory setting is allowed if all research involving the use of tobacco on campus is approved in advance by the Vice President of Academic Affairs or designee. Such use must be preceded by reasonable advance notice to the public.
- Specific activities used in connection with the practice of cultural activities by American Indians that are in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. sections 1996 and 1996a allow for the use of ceremonial tobacco. All ceremonial use exceptions must be approved in advance by the Administration or a Student Services designee.