



County of San Diego

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WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

February 28, 2020

Dear Food Facility Permit Holder:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, secondhand smoke causes 41,000 deaths annually in nonsmokers, in addition to the 480,000 deaths annually in persons who smoke. Smoke-free air laws, including smoke-free outdoor dining laws, can reduce smoking prevalence, increase smoking cessation, and reduce the incidence of smoking among youth. Ten cities in San Diego County have adopted ordinances that further limit acceptable smoking locations, including within parks and beaches, entryways and sidewalks, outdoor areas of multi-unit housing, and outdoor dining patios.

On January 28, 2020, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance establishing smoke-free outdoor dining in the unincorporated area of the County. This letter is to provide you with information about San Diego County Ordinance No. 10647, which prohibits smoking in all outdoor dining areas in the unincorporated area of San Diego County. This letter is a first step in working with local businesses to provide educational information about the Ordinance requirements in preparation for implementation.

The following restrictions will be in place on July 1, 2020:

Smoking is prohibited in all outdoor dining areas, and within 25 feet from the perimeter of such areas. Additionally, smoking is prohibited within 40 feet from a permitted food facility that is a mobile food or temporary food facility, such as a food truck or food cart.

At this time, hookah bars, hookah lounges, hookah parlors, and hookah cafes are exempt from this smoke-free outdoor dining ban. However, on April 21, 2020, County of San Diego Board of Supervisors will consider further review of the hookah exemption and may make changes that could impact this exemption. Should changes be made on April 21, additional information will be sent to the impacted facilities.

In the coming months, Public Health Services will create a website where implementation resources will be posted. These resources will include the Ordinance, Frequently Asked Questions, and suggested signage for compliance. We anticipate the site will be online in late spring 2020.

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If you have any questions about the Ordinance, please contact the County of San Diego's Tobacco Control Resource Program at tobacco@sdcounty.ca.gov or visit:

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/tobacco_control_resource_program.html

Sincerely,



Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.

Public Health Officer

County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency