



County of San Diego

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

May 17, 2021

NOTICE OF TOBACCO RETAIL LICENSING ORDINANCE FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021

Dear Tobacco Retailer:

The County of San Diego (County) Board of Supervisors adopted [Ordinance No. 10699](#), on December 8, 2020, which established a Tobacco Retail Licensing Program in unincorporated San Diego County. As a result, tobacco retailers in the unincorporated area must obtain a Tobacco Retail License (TRL) to sell tobacco products and comply with operating and tobacco product requirements.

To be eligible for a TRL, tobacco retailers are required to have a Cigarette and Tobacco Products License from the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (<https://www.cdtfa.ca.gov/>). Retailers can submit TRL applications early for County review beginning **June 1, 2021**. The operative date, or the date when the ordinance becomes enforceable, is **July 1, 2021**. This is also the date when tobacco retailers must be in compliance with all requirements of the Tobacco Retail Licensing Program. Beginning **October 2021**, the County will conduct unannounced inspections of and decoy operations at tobacco retailers. Regardless of when the TRL is issued between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, it must be renewed, and application fees paid by **July 1, 2022**. Afterwards, TRLs must be renewed and application fees paid by July 1 of each year. Beginning July 2022, retailers applying for a new TRL must also submit a TRL application fee.

Additional resources have been posted to the County's Tobacco Control Resource Program webpages, including the Ordinance, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), Informational Presentation, Tobacco Retail Licensing Program Fact Sheet (including penalties for violations), and the TRL Application. These resources can be accessed at: www.sandiegocounty.gov/hhsa/tobacco.

If you have any questions, please contact the Compliance Officer in the County's Tobacco Control Resource Program via e-mail at tobacco@sdcounty.ca.gov or by telephone at (619) 542-4178. If you wish to receive information electronically, please send an e-mail to tobacco@sdcounty.ca.gov with your business name and mailing address. Your business may be contacted by the County to verify business information.

Sincerely,

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Officer and Director
Public Health Services