

# TOBACCO- AND SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS FAQs

**Q. I thought West Virginia University already was tobacco-free. Why has the University adopted the updated tobacco- and smoke-free campus rule?**

**A.** While WVU's Morgantown campus has been tobacco-free since 2012 under Board of Governors (BOG) Policy 57 – Tobacco-Free Campus, **BOG Finance and Administration Rule 5.6 – Tobacco- and Smoke-Free Campus** expands the prohibitions set forth in the prior policy and clarifies that smoking in any form (including e-cigarettes and vapor products) is prohibited on WVU property. The updated rule also was broadened to include the University's divisional campuses (WVU Institute of Technology and WVU Potomac State College) in addition to the Morgantown campus.

**Q. What are the differences between the prior policy and the updated BOG rule?**

**A.** The updated rule provides additional details on the prohibitions outlined in the original policy by:

- ✓ Clarifying the definitions of “smoking” and “tobacco products” also include electronic smoking devices, (e.g., e-cigarettes and other vapor products);
- ✓ Ensuring the rule is inclusive of WVU's divisional campuses (i.e., WVU Institute of Technology and WVU Potomac State College) in addition to the University's Morgantown campus;
- ✓ Requiring that a process be developed for identifying and reporting violations to the updated rule and locations where it is repeatedly violated;
- ✓ Mandating WVU develop and maintain a comprehensive communication strategy regarding the prohibitions of tobacco use and smoking on University property; and
- ✓ Requiring the establishment of a “Tobacco- and Smoke-Free Campus Steering Committee” to advise WVU's president and senior leadership on the rule's implementation.

**Q. When will the updated rule become effective?**

**A.** The updated rule was approved by the BOG on February 8, 2019, after receiving approval for public comment in January 2019. The updated rule will become effective August 1, 2019.

**Q. Does the rule include prohibitions on the use of smokeless tobacco on University property?**

**A.** Yes. As with the prior policy, the updated rule prohibits the use of tobacco in all forms, including smokeless tobacco products, on WVU property.

**Q. Who is required to follow the tobacco-and smoke-free campus rule?**

**A.** The updated rule applies to all students, faculty and staff, visitors and employees of vendors or contractors on all University property across the entire WVU System.

**Q. What is considered “University property” within the rule?**

**A.** For the purposes of the tobacco- and smoke-free campus rule only, “University property” is defined as all buildings, facilities, structures, grounds, parking structures and lots, enclosed bridges and walkways, sidewalks, vehicles and other property controlled by and under the jurisdiction of the WVU BOG.

**Q. Are there any exceptions to the tobacco-and smoke-free campus rule?**

**A.** Yes. Certain University programs (e.g., athletic events) that attract a large number of off-campus visitors to WVU property may be exempted from the prohibitions set forth in the tobacco- and smoke-free campus rule.

Any exemption will be handled on a case-by-case basis with the approval of the University's president provided that smoking and the use of tobacco products is restricted to designated outdoor areas. Further, smoking and the use of tobacco products may be permitted for academic or research purposes in a controlled setting with prior approval of the president.

**Q. Who will oversee the implementation of the tobacco- and smoke-free campus rule?**

**A.** A steering committee of University administrators and subject matter experts is overseeing the implementation of the rule. The steering committee also is responsible for monitoring compliance to the rule and making any necessary adjustments.

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## Q. How will the rule be enforced?

**A.** WVU is seeking voluntary compliance for the tobacco- and smoke-free campus rule. However, the University also has established several **methods of enforcement** as permitted by law and in accordance with University policy for students, faculty, staff, vendors and visitors who violate the rule:

Enforcement will be fair and consistent, and non-compliance will be addressed in accordance with existing or forthcoming rules, policies and procedures. For example:

- ✓ Students will be subject to Student Conduct proceedings and sanctions as outlined in **Student Conduct Code** for each campus.
- ✓ Faculty and staff will be subject to appropriate disciplinary proceedings, as permitted by law, and which may have a negative impact on performance evaluations in accordance with **WVU BOG Talent and Culture Rule 3.8** and **BOG Faculty Rule 4.2**.
- ✓ Visitors who do not comply with the rule will be asked to leave campus, which if ignored, may result in additional sanctions.
- ✓ Employees of vendors or contractors will be reported to their employer for appropriate remedial action.

A compliance officer has been hired to monitor WVU's Morgantown campus. Further, students, faculty and staff can **report violations** when they see them. Submissions will be handled with anonymity and help identify additional locations where the rule frequently is violated.

## Q. Is smoking in a personal vehicle on WVU property a violation of the rule?

**A.** Yes. As with the prior policy, smoking and tobacco use within a personal, state or any other vehicle on University property is prohibited in the updated rule.

## Q. What about breaks for WVU employees?

**A.** University employees are limited to two 10-minute breaks per day. As with the prior policy, breaks will not be extended for smoking and tobacco use purposes.

## Q. How can faculty and staff get involved to ensure our campuses are tobacco- and smoke-free?

**A.** Faculty and staff should visit the **Tobacco- and Smoke-Free Campus** website to ensure they are familiar with the rule. Further, if faculty and staff see someone violating the rule, they should respectfully remind the individual that smoking and tobacco use is not permitted on WVU property. Faculty and staff also may **report violations** via the **Tobacco- and Smoke-Free Campus** website.

## Q. How can students get involved to ensure our campuses are tobacco- and smoke-free?

**A.** Similar to faculty and staff, students should visit the **Tobacco- and Smoke-Free Campus** website to ensure they are familiar with the rule. Students also should respectfully remind individuals who violate the rule that smoking and tobacco use is not permitted on WVU property.

Students are encouraged to help the University promote overall health and well-being across our campus community by signing up to be a **Tobacco- and Smoke-Free Ambassador**. Students also may **report violations** of the rule via the **Tobacco- and Smoke-Free Campus** website.

## Q. Who should I contact with questions?

**A.** Questions about the rule may be directed to the Tobacco- and Smoke-Free Campus Steering Committee at **TobaccoSmokeFreeTaskForce@mail.wvu.edu**.