

Smoke, Aerosol and Tobacco-Free Child Care Policy & Procedures

Rationale: Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the United States. All places where children learn, live, and play should be smoke-free, in order to discourage smoking initiation, as well as to prevent exposure to secondhand and thirdhand smoke. Children exposed to secondhand smoke get sick more often and their lungs grow less than children who do not breathe secondhand smoke.¹ Children and adolescents with chronic conditions (eg, asthma) face significant health harms from tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure. Those who suffer from chronic conditions, which are often not visible, could be at an even greater risk for adverse reactions if environments are not smoke or tobacco-free. Smoke-free laws should include electronic smoking devices (also called e-cigarettes), as secondhand vapor from these products contains some of the same chemicals as secondhand smoke.²

A majority of tobacco users want to quit. Policies that promote tobacco-free workplaces are good for business and have been shown to increase productivity while reducing medical costs and time lost due to sick days.

[Insert Center Name] recognizes that secondhand and thirdhand smoke, as well as aerosol from electronic smoking devices, are detrimental to the health and safety of everyone, particularly infants and children. For this reason, [Insert Center Name] has become a 100% smoke-, aerosol-, and tobacco-free facility, effective [insert date].

Definitions: **Electronic Smoking Device** means any device that when activated emits a vapor, aerosol, fume or smoke, can be used to deliver nicotine or any other substance to the person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pens, e-hookahs, inhalant delivery systems or any other product by any other name or descriptor. An electronic smoking device includes any component, part or accessory of such device whether or not sold separately, regardless of nicotine content or any other substance intended to be vaporized or aerosolized for human inhalation during the use of the device.

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General](#)

Atlanta: 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

² American Academy of Pediatrics. [Tobacco Prevention Policy Tool](#). 2019

Smoking is the act of burning, heating, activating or carrying of any device, including, but not limited to a cigarette, cigar, pipe, hookah, or electronic smoking device, electronic cigarette, vape pen, e-hookah or similar device, by any other product name or descriptor that results in the release of smoke, vapors or aerosols when the apparent or usual purpose of the burning, heating or activation of the device is human inhalation.

Thirdhand Smoke is tobacco residue from cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products that is left behind after smoking. Thirdhand smoke builds up on clothes, skin, hair, surfaces and furnishings, and then the gases and residues are released later, causing particular harm to children.

Tobacco Product means any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff; and any electronic smoking device. Tobacco product does not include any FDA approved cessation medication.

Policy: This policy prohibits smoking and tobacco use by all employees, parents, visitors, contractors, and volunteers:

- Within all enclosed areas of the facility;
- On all facility grounds, including playgrounds and parking lots, including in personal vehicles parked on [Insert Center Name] property;
- In facility-owned or leased vehicles and employees' personal vehicles being used in the course of work;
- During paid work time (breaks) and it encourages employees and contractors not to smoke during unpaid work time (lunch) even when off of [Insert Center Name] property;
- These prohibitions are enforced in accordance with the State of Colorado, Department of Human Services and the Division of Early Care and Learning laws and policies.

Responsibility & Accountability: Any persons on the property including the parking lots are to comply with this policy. This policy applies to all staff and is strictly enforced by [insert title of staff(s) who will enforce policy]. Failure to comply with this policy is grounds for written warning and corrective action.

Infant Room Procedure: Any persons, including employees, parents, visitors, contractors, or volunteers in possession of, or who recently used a tobacco product, are not to enter the Infant Room. All persons who are in possession of or who have recently used tobacco products must notify an Infant Room staff member that they have arrived to pick up their child. An Infant Room staff member or other employee will bring the child to the parent.

Regulations: According to regulations: 7.701.91 Smoking and Tobacco Products Pursuant to C.R.S. 26-6-106(2)(e); C.R.S., 25-14-204(i); and C.R.S. 18-13-121; tobacco and nicotine products are prohibited by law from use in licensed child care facilities. C.R.S. 25-14-204 prohibits smoking and the use of electronic smoking devices in worksites and within 25 feet of the front or main entryway.

Management Approval: [Insert Staffer name with authority to establish Center policies and have them sign below]

_____ Date: _____

Staff Signature: [Recommend having all staff sign and date this policy because it outlines corrective action]

_____ Date: _____

Updated and Revised [Insert date]