



After years of discussion on secondhand smoke ordinances, one is set to go into effect in Kenton County on April 15.

Secondhand smoke is the smoke given off by a burning tobacco product and the smoke exhaled by a smoker. It contains at least 69 chemicals that are known to cause cancer.

WHO: Most public buildings and workplaces in Kenton County must prohibit smoking. The new law forbids smoking in any building or place of employment where the public is invited or permitted, such as: offices, factories, churches, restaurants, bingo halls, bowling alleys and stores.

The new law does not apply to private homes unless used as a licensed child care, adult day care or health care facility. Hotels and motels may permit smoking in private rooms; however, common areas, such as lobbies and elevators, must be smoke-free.

The law does contain a provision to exempt private clubs and drinking establishments which meet certain criteria.

WHAT: In most cases, the smoke-free ordinance will be self enforcing. Businesses are responsible for educating employees and customers about the regulations and politely asking that smokers go outside. Signs at the doors to all businesses will remind individuals of the ordinance.

When further enforcement is necessary, the Health Department will be involved.

HOW: Should a business or individual be believed to be in violation of the ordinance, a complaint can be filed with the Health Department, by calling 859.392.0101 or visiting <http://www.nkyhealth.org>. Complaints will be investigated by Health Department staff during regular business hours.

Visit the Health Department's Web site, <http://www.nkyhealth.org>, for full details about the ordinance and other resources, along with information about smoking cessation.