



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Dearborn County Board of Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

165 Mary Street
Lawrenceburg IN, 47025

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For Public Release:

October 20th 2022

Citizens of Dearborn County,

The Dearborn County Health Department and the Dearborn County Board of Health issue this letter of notification to all residents in Dearborn County. The local retail environment should operate within the law of the State of Indiana regarding Tobacco sales to those under the age of 21. Dearborn County has experienced increased youth nicotine use through e-cigarette (vape) devices. The Board of Health and the Dearborn County Health Department want to remind its citizens that the sale of tobacco products is illegal to those under the age of 21, and if should they find that a local retailer has sold such items to minors, they should file a complaint. Complaints of illegal activity are handled by the Indiana Excise Police in your area. Complaints can be filed anonymously here: <http://www.in.gov/atc/ise/2379.htm>

Not only is the underage sale of tobacco illegal but the supplying of nicotine products to youth is also illegal even if they were legally purchased. If you know this is happening please report it to local law enforcement.

The bigger issue: A study conducted in 2020 sought out various schools with higher rates of free and reduced priced meals (FRPM) and the amount of vape shops located near those schools. The results indicated that schools with lower socioeconomic rates have an increased exposure to tobacco retailing¹. This is no surprise learning from the tactics that big tobacco companies have used for decades to target minority populations. Leaders in Dearborn County have a duty to protect students from adverse effects of the vaping epidemic. If you hear of retailers that are knowingly selling to minors, report them. The Dearborn County Nicotine Alliance is the local tobacco control coalition that is here to help all residents with related issues.

¹ Cuomo, Raphael E. Cuomo E, et al. "Spatial Disparities in School Proximity to Tobacco/Vape Outlets." Tobacco Regulatory Science (TRS), 2022.



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If you need help to quit vaping or smoking, please call 1-800-QUIT now or visit quitnowindiana.com. For prevention/education resources, contact your local tobacco control coalition at www.nicotineactionalliance.org

Sincerely,

Dearborn County Board of Health

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Vice-Chairman- Steve Hubbard, DVM

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