



**Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale
County Health Departments**

2570 Riverside Pkwy P.O. Box 897

Lawrenceville, GA 30046-0897

Phone: 770.339.4260

Fax: 770.339.2334

www.gnrhealth.com

Audrey Arona, M.D., District Health Director

Greetings!

You are a valued business owner in Gwinnett, Newton or Rockdale county. As such, the Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale County Health Departments would like to inform you, the state of Georgia has implemented Senate Bill 375 (Tobacco 21 or T21), a law that raised the minimum legal sales age for tobacco products to 21 years old.

What is Senate Bill 375 (Tobacco 21 or T21)? As of July 22, 2020, the sale or barter, directly or indirectly, any cigarettes, tobacco products, tobacco related objects, alternative nicotine products, or vapor products to anyone under the age of 21 years is illegal in Georgia.

What are retailers required to do? Retailers are responsible for upholding the law. Compliance checks are conducted and enforced on a continuous basis to ensure retailers are following federal and state Tobacco 21 laws that prohibit the sale of all tobacco products. Failure to comply with the Tobacco 21 law will result in a misdemeanor.

- Retailer must display Tobacco 21 signage in clearly visible locations
 - Use a state-issued driver's license, military ID, and passport to verify individuals' age
 - Train all staff on the following steps for every tobacco sale
 - o **Ask** for valid ID from everyone attempting to purchase tobacco products
 - o **Check** ID to make sure everyone is 21 years and older
 - o **Refuse** to sell tobacco products to everyone under 21

Why public health needs retailers help? There has been an alarming increase in the use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes and flavored delivery systems among youth and young adults in our community. Almost 1 of every 5 high school students in Georgia are current tobacco users of cigarettes, hookah, cigars, smokeless tobacco, or electronic cigarettes (Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019). As a licensed tobacco retailer, you play an important role ensuring the success of reducing access and use of tobacco products by complying with the Tobacco 21 law.

What are free resources for quitting tobacco? Georgia residents 13 years and older who want to quit smoking, vaping, or using tobacco, can call the Georgia Tobacco Quit Line.

- 1-877-270-7867 (English)
- 1-877-266-3863 (Spanish)

- 1-877-777-6534 (Hearing Impaired)
- Youth and young adults can enroll in This is Quitting by texting VAPEFREEGA to 88709 to quit vaping.

Let's work together to keep our youth and young adults tobacco-free! To learn more, please find attached Tobacco 21 materials.