



GWINNETT, NEWTON AND ROCKDALE
HEALTHY. PROTECTED. PREPARED.

Greetings.

You are receiving this letter as a valued business owner in Gwinnett, Newton or Rockdale county. GNR Public Health would like to inform you about the passage of the recent 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, of 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 may be conducted by federal, local, or public health entities 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, or passport to verify individuals' age
- Train all staff on the following steps for every tobacco sale
 - **Ask** for valid ID from everyone attempting to purchase tobacco products
 - **Check** ID to make sure everyone is 21 years and older
 - **Refuse** to sell tobacco products to everyone under 21

Why does public health need 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 five 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 essential role in reducing underage individuals' access to 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 review the attached Tobacco 21 materials.