

Baltimore City Community College “A 100 Percent Tobacco-Free Campus”

Baltimore City Community College’s (BCCC) Board of Trustees on Sept. 18, 2019 approved an update to the College’s smoke-free environment policy to make BCCC a **100 percent tobacco-free campus**. Effective Jan. 2, 2020, the revised “tobacco-free policy” prohibits the use of all smoking and tobacco products and (and smoking and tobacco substitutes) at all BCCC locations, current and future.

For the past year a group of students, faculty and staff have worked together on a series of initiatives and events to help the College with the transition. Their efforts included an awareness communications campaign, titled *“Kickin’ It At BCCC.”*

Frequently Asked Questions

What is BCCC’s tobacco-free policy?

On Sept. 18, 2019, Baltimore City Community College’s (BCCC) Board of Trustees approved several updates to the College’s smoke-free environment policy to make BCCC a 100 percent tobacco-free campus. **Note:** while revisions were made to the existing “smoke-free environment” policy, the College refers to this updated version as BCCC’s “tobacco-free policy.”

Under the revised “tobacco-free policy,” BCCC prohibits the use of all smoking and tobacco products (and all substitutes), including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigarillos, chewing tobacco, snus, vaping, pipes, hookah, cigars, snuff, and other forms of tobacco or tobacco substitutes. The revised policy also applies to any item(s) that may be developed in the future to simulate any smoking- or tobacco-related product.

When does the tobacco-free campus policy start?

The new policy will go into effect on Jan. 2, 2020.

Why is BCCC going 100 percent tobacco-free?

First and foremost, BCCC is committed to providing a healthy environment for all who visit, study and work here. BCCC students have been requesting a smoke- and tobacco-free campus for some time and in a 2018 survey administered to students, employees and visitors, 90 percent responded in favor of a tobacco-free environment.

In addition, smoke- and tobacco-free environments have become the standard for many employers. As an institution of higher learning, encouraging healthy habits is another important way BCCC prepares students for the workforce.

Who does the policy affect?

BCCC’s 100 percent tobacco-free policy applies to the entire BCCC community, including but not limited to: students, employees (faculty, staff and administrators), trustees, visitors, volunteers, vendors, and contractors who are on property and facilities owned or operated by Baltimore City Community College.

Does this policy apply to all BCCC campus locations and properties?

Yes, all locations and properties owned, leased and operated by BCCC – current and future, indoors and outdoors – are covered under this policy.

How is this policy different from the College's smoke-free environment policy?

Previously, those who wished to use tobacco products could do so inside their personal vehicles or at clearly designated outdoor smoking areas of some campus locations. Once the new tobacco-free policy goes into effect on Jan. 2, 2020, the use of all tobacco products and substitutes will be strictly prohibited at all indoor and outdoor BCCC locations and facilities.

What defines a Baltimore City Community College facility?

A BCCC facility is defined as any facility or property that is owned, leased, used or occupied by BCCC, including but not limited to: classrooms, restrooms, auditoriums, offices, lounges, dining areas, recreational facilities, storage areas, walkways, thoroughfares, facilities operations areas, athletic facilities and extension locations. The new policy also applies to all BCCC vehicles (owned or leased), and personally owned or rented vehicles when used to transport students, employees (faculty, staff and administrators) or students on any school-related business, academic or student life activities.

What is considered a tobacco product and therefore prohibited by this policy?

As referenced above, BCCC's tobacco-free policy prohibits the use of all smoking and tobacco products (and substitutes), including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigarillos, chewing tobacco, snus, vaping, pipes, hookah, cigars, and other forms of tobacco or tobacco substitutes. The revised policy also applies to any item(s) that may be developed in the future to simulate any smoking- or tobacco-related product.

Why is smokeless tobacco banned?

An increasing number of recent reports have found alternative tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco (chew, dip, snus) are detrimental to health, which goes against BCCC's commitment to providing a healthy learning and working environment for all who come here. The College has therefore chosen to include all alternative tobacco in its new 100 percent tobacco-free policy.

Can I use e-cigarettes on campus?

No. BCCC's new policy bans the use of all smoking and tobacco products and substitutes, including e-cigarettes.

Aren't e-cigarettes considered safe alternatives to smoking?

According to a recent [fact sheet on e-cigarettes](#) published by the [Truth Initiative](#): "As of November 5, 2019, more than 2,000 vaping-related illnesses and 39 deaths have been reported to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition, a review of some of the affected e-cigarette users in two states reported that a majority of patients were experiencing cough, labored breathing, reduced blood oxygen levels and elevated white blood cell counts."

E-cigarettes may emit nicotine or vapors containing detectable carcinogens and toxic chemicals. The American Medical Association, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and American Lung Association all recommend that smoke-free and tobacco-free laws and policies prohibit the use of e-cigarettes.

Are other universities and colleges tobacco free?

Yes. On Jan. 2, 2020, BCCC will join 2,009 colleges and universities throughout the nation (and most Maryland institutions) that are already a 100 percent smoke- and tobacco-free institution. BCCC is proud to be among them.

BOUNDARIES AND LOCATIONS

Are outdoor areas covered by this policy?

Yes. All outdoor areas on all BCCC locations are covered by this policy. This includes all campus property as well as streets and sidewalks maintained by BCCC.

How will campus visitors know that BCCC is a 100 percent tobacco-free institution?

Signage about our tobacco-free campus will be prominently displayed throughout BCCC grounds and buildings. College Facilities crews are in the process of updating existing signage with “smoke-free environment” wording to reflect the new 100 percent tobacco-free policy. Extensive information is also provided on BCCC’s website at <https://www.bccc.edu/tobaccofree>.

Are there designated smoking areas on campus?

No. The revised tobacco-free policy has eliminated the handful of designated smoking areas that were available previously.

Does this policy apply to city-owned streets, sidewalks and rights of way?

BCCC does not have jurisdiction over the use of city-owned streets, sidewalks and rights of way in regard to tobacco use or related activities. Please note, however, that many streets and sidewalks adjacent to the campus are College property.

The street and sidewalks maintained by BCCC include:

- South corner on Liberty Heights Ave. and Druid Park Ave. (including bus stop area)
- South sidewalk on Liberty Heights Ave.
- North sidewalk and main entrance at 2600 Liberty Heights Ave.
- Palladium parking area and sidewalk
- Towanda Ave. and Wichita Ave. sidewalks in front of West, South and North Pavilions
- Sidewalk around BCCC empty lot on Towanda Ave. and Wahaton Ave.
- BARD building, downtown Baltimore – north sidewalk at Lombard Street, west sidewalk on Market Place, south sidewalk on Water Street, east sidewalk at Holocaust Memorial Park

Can I smoke in my personal car?

No. The use of smoking and tobacco products and substitutes, including smoking in your personal vehicle, is not permitted while on campus premises of any property that is owned, operated or maintained by BCCC.

ENFORCEMENT

How will this policy be enforced?

Baltimore City Community College’s primary goal is to achieve 100 percent voluntary compliance with the new 100 percent tobacco-free campus policy by educating students, faculty, staff and visitors about the policy. Voluntary compliance is strongly encouraged and preferred; however, it should be noted that the policy will be enforced. Violation of this policy can result in disciplinary actions. You can read the revised policy in full [here](#). The College’s procedures for enforcement and consequences for violations, can be found [here](#).

Are there any exceptions to the policy?

No, there are no exceptions to BCCC's 100 percent tobacco-free policy.

What if people don't abide by the policy?

The College's vision for the enforcement of the tobacco-free campus policy is one in which a 100 percent tobacco-free campus is viewed as the shared responsibility of all members of the BCCC community, tobacco users and non-users alike. While the College does not anticipate a difficult transition in complying with the revised policy, repeated instances of abuse of the policy will be addressed through the Student Conduct process for students and by the Department of Human Resources for employees.

What are the rights of smokers?

Court rulings maintain that tobacco users do not have the legal right to expose others to secondhand smoke, which is considered a Class A carcinogen. Additionally, people who smoke are not entitled to protection against discrimination as "addicts" or as "disabled persons." There is no legal right to smoke. Prohibiting smoking on campus provides access to clean, smoke-free air while allowing adults who smoke to continue to do so off-campus. This decision supports the rights and privileges of both smokers and non-smokers.

While enforcing BCCC's tobacco-free policy, campus officials and members of the campus community are encouraged to be friendly and respectful. Discussions about the revised tobacco policy should be brief, educational, and non-confrontational. However, reported blatant and chronic violations are subject to established disciplinary protocols applicable to faculty, staff, and students. Please refer to the tobacco-free policy page of this website to learn more.

What should I do if I see someone smoking or using tobacco on campus?

If you observe individuals using tobacco products and tobacco substitutes (as specified in the policy) on College grounds, we ask that you inform these individuals politely that BCCC's 100 percent tobacco-free policy prohibits tobacco use anywhere on campus grounds. For those who are interested, business card-size cards with the College's "Kickin' It At BCCC" tobacco-free messaging and web page links are available at Student Support and Wellness Services in the Main Building, room 260.

Note: We expect all members of the BCCC community to treat each other with dignity and respect, support each other, and embrace a spirit of having a healthy living, learning and working environment.

RESOURCES**Is the College requiring that students and employees quit tobacco products?**

No. The College is not requiring anyone to quit. This policy simply means that no one can use tobacco products or substitutes on Baltimore City Community College grounds.

What resources are available to help those who want to quit smoking and tobacco?

As part of BCCC's efforts to become a 100 percent tobacco-free campus, the College offered several tobacco use cessation informational sessions, smoking cessation workshops and other events. In January, BCCC will offer additional free smoking cessation classes through B'More For Healthy Babies. A comprehensive list of [support services and resources](#) is also available on BCCC's tobacco-free web pages.