

Tobacco Free Policy

Purpose

This policy provides guidelines and resources to promote a tobacco-free environment and to encourage all faculty, trainees/students, and other members of MD Anderson's workforce to abstain from the use of tobacco as part of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's (MD Anderson's) primary health care mission to eliminate cancer in Texas, the nation, and the world.

Policy Statement

The use of tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). MD Anderson is a world leader in fighting cancer and promoting preventive health and wellness.

As part of its primary mission, MD Anderson is dedicated to providing a healthy, comfortable, and productive work environment for its workforce members. To contribute to the health and well-being of the MD Anderson community and to enhance environmental air quality, MD Anderson's campus will be entirely tobacco free. The ban on Tobacco Products covers the use of such products in or on Institutional Facilities and Grounds, entryways, and parking lots.

All tobacco use is banned at MD Anderson workplaces, whether these workplaces are owned, leased, operated, or otherwise controlled by MD Anderson. No Tobacco Products may be used in vehicles that are being operated at work locations that are owned, leased, operated, or otherwise controlled by MD Anderson. Tobacco use will not be permitted in personal vehicles when transporting persons on authorized institutional business. Any advertising, sale, or free sampling of Tobacco Products on MD Anderson property is prohibited.

In furtherance of MD Anderson's fight against cancer, MD Anderson also supports and encourages good health by requiring that all new hires and Covered Trainees are tobacco-free at the time of hire/appointment. Post-offer applicants and Covered Trainees will be drug screened to ensure they are tobacco free. Refer to the [**Drug Detection and Deterrence Policy \(MD Anderson Institutional Policy #ADM0309\)**](#).

Note: MD Anderson became a tobacco-free campus on Jan. 1, 1989.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees, Trainees, and Covered Trainees (as defined herein and as applicable), contractors, and volunteers.

The ban on the use of Tobacco Products also extends to patients and visitors when they are on an MD Anderson campus or in a facility owned, leased, operated, or otherwise controlled by MD Anderson.

School of Health Professions applicants and students are subject to 51.842 of the Education Code and are excluded only from the tobacco compound testing requirement.

The Smoking Cessation Lab located in the Duncan Building (CPB), Floor 2, is not included in the scope of this policy. The designated outdoor smoking area for participants who are enrolled in tobacco cessation research studies (CPB1) is likewise excluded from the scope of this policy.

Target Audience

The target audience for this policy includes, but is not limited to, all faculty, trainees/students, and other members of MD Anderson's workforce.

Definitions

Covered Trainee: For the purposes of this policy, includes all Trainees who are compensated and benefits-eligible, all MD Anderson-based Graduate Medical Education (GME) Residents and Fellows, regardless of compensation status, and all School of Health Professions students.

Institutional Facilities and Grounds: For the purposes of this policy, this extends the Tobacco Products ban to the border of the public roadways.

Tobacco Products: Includes all forms of tobacco, whether smoked (e.g., cigarettes, cigars, pipes) or smokeless (e.g., chewing tobacco, snuff); also includes electronic cigarettes (*i.e.*, e-cigarettes).

Trainee: An individual holding an educational appointment through the Division of Education regardless of compensation status or benefits eligibility.

Procedure

1.0 General Information

- 1.1 Information about this policy will be made available through signage posted in facilities and vehicles, through online communications, and during orientation and training of new faculty, trainees/students, and other members of MD Anderson's workforce.
- 1.2 Visitors will be informed of this policy by hosts upon their arrival and through signage posted throughout campus. Visitors will be directed to the street or sidewalk beyond the Institutional Facilities and Grounds if they intend to consume Tobacco Products.
- 1.3 MD Anderson maintains a drug-free and tobacco-free workplace. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2015, applicants for employment and Covered Trainees at MD Anderson must be tobacco free at the time of their hire/appointment. MD Anderson tests for compounds of tobacco as a part of the urine drug screening process. Refer to the [Drug Detection and Deterrence Policy \(MD Anderson Institutional Policy #ADM0309\)](#). Individuals who test positive will have their hiring/appointment process terminated and will be offered information on tobacco cessation resources.
- 1.4 Current faculty and staff who are in need of tobacco cessation assistance can get help from the [Tobacco Treatment Program](#), which offers services at no cost to MD Anderson employees, their spouses, and their children under age 26.
- 1.5 Any violations of this policy will be handled through standard corrective procedures. Refer to the [Corrective Action Policy \(MD Anderson Institutional Policy #ADM0256\)](#).
- 1.6 Encounters between employees encouraging others either to not consume Tobacco Products or to leave Institutional Facilities and Grounds should be handled professionally. Any behavior that is threatening should be reported to The University of Texas Police at Houston by calling 713-792-2890.

Attachments/Links

[Tobacco Treatment Program site](#)

Related Policies

[Corrective Action Policy \(MD Anderson Institutional Policy #ADM0256\)](#)

[Drug Detection and Deterrence Policy \(MD Anderson Institutional Policy #ADM0309\)](#)

Joint Commission Standards / National Patient Safety Goals

EC.02.01.03:

"The hospital prohibits smoking except in specific circumstances." *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals (CAMH)*, 2023.

Other Related Accreditation / Regulatory Standards

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services - Condition of Participation: Environment of Care, 42 CFR § 482.41, Tags A-0720, 2023.

References

None.