



# **JEFFERSON COUNTY General Health District**

— Prevent. Promote. Protect. —

## **News Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 24, 2025

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### **Smoke Free Workplace Program**

**STEUBENVILLE, OH** – The Jefferson County General Health District (JCGHD) has partnered with the Ohio Department of Health to conduct Smoke Free Workplace investigations in Jefferson County. Since the Ohio Smoking Ban was approved by voters in November 2006, many of Ohio's local health departments have partnered with the Ohio Department of Health to enforce the law. The JCGHD assisted the Ohio Department of Health for a short period of time when the law first went into effect in 2007, but has rejoined this list of approved health departments as of July 2025.

Per the law, No Smoking signs must be posted in public places and places of employment at all entrances and exits. The Smoke Free Workplace Act includes exemptions for a variety of locations that meet specific requirements through the Ohio Department of Health. The exemption for retail tobacco stores to allow smoking indoors is not automatic, and must be requested annually. Retail tobacco stores must be the only business located in a freestanding building and cannot be a department or section of another establishment within the building. If violations are validated, enforcement starts with a warning and results in fines for repeated offenses.

A formal complaint is necessary to prompt a smoking violation investigation by health officials. To report a smoking violation, please contact the Ohio Department of Health at 1-866-559-OHIO (1-866-559-6446) and the complaints will be forwarded to the JCGHD. You may call the JCGHD directly at 740-283-8530. Violations may also be submitted online at [jchealth.com](http://jchealth.com) by selecting the Environmental tab under Rules and Regulations for Businesses.

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