

## **Information to the Public Regarding Restrictions on Smoking and Vaping**

With the legalization of recreational cannabis and the negative effects of smoking and vaping, the Municipality of Sault Ste. Marie has enhanced its smoking bylaw to compliment the provincial Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 (SFOA, 2017).

This includes the addition of public spaces that are smoke and vape free in an effort to provide a welcoming environment that contributes to the overall well-being of our residents and visitors.

The [Smoke Free Ontario Act](#) (SFOA, 2017) prohibits the smoking of tobacco, the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) to vape any substance, and the smoking of cannabis (medical and recreational) to protect workers and the public from second-hand smoke and vapour.

These prohibited places include enclosed workplaces, enclosed public places, schools, indoor common areas in a condominium, apartment building or university or college residence, childcare centres, community recreational facilities, sporting areas, restaurant patios, hospitals and children's playgrounds and play areas.

In Sault Ste. Marie, these smoking and vaping restrictions will also apply to other areas including the black paved portion of the Hub Trail, Algoma Public Health property and at the Roberta Bondar Tent.

[Smoking](#) refers to the smoking or holding of lighted tobacco or [cannabis](#) (medical or recreational). Vaping refers to inhaling or exhaling vapour from an [e-cigarettes](#), or holding an activated electronic cigarette, whether or not the vapour contains nicotine.

### **Who Will Enforce these Restrictions?**

Algoma Public Health has designated enforcement staff that will conduct regular proactive compliance activities related to the smoking bylaw during their regular inspections for smoking and vaping in public places and workplaces. They will also investigate on a complaint basis, notifications received from the public about alleged violations of smoking and vaping in locations that are prohibited under the municipal smoking bylaw.

### **What is the goal of enforcement?**

Enforcement of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act and the Municipal Smoking Bylaw is to educate, facilitate and enforce general compliance with the restrictions that pertain to smoking and vaping in the community. The goal of bylaw enforcement is primarily aimed at achieving compliance in order to preserve the quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie.

### **How to Make a Complaint and what information is needed?**

To make a complaint regarding an individual(s) smoking or vaping in a restricted location contained in either the Smoke-Free Ontario Act or the Sault Ste. Marie Smoking bylaws, the complainant is requested to provide the following information: Your name, phone number, email, date and time you saw smoking/vaping and a description of the person or people smoking/vaping.

Complaints from the public may be received in person, over the telephone, in writing, or online Link: <http://www.algomapublichealth.com/environment-inspections/facility-complaint-form/>

**What is the process for dealing with complaints from the public?**

- All questions or complaints will be responded to as soon as possible.
- How much personal information you provide is up to you, however too little information may impact our ability to properly respond to or handle your request.
- Algoma Public Health staff and volunteers will not release your personal information to anyone without your consent unless there is a legal requirement.

**If I submit a complaint will I be notified of what the outcome is and what type of timeline can I expect for a response?**

We are committed to providing accurate and timely information. Our enforcement staff will contact you if more information is required and then they will inform you after the complaint has been closed and what compliance action was taken.

**How much are the fines for smoking or vaping in prohibited places?**

To smoke or vape any substance in a prohibited place is a set fine of \$250.00 plus a victim surcharge of \$55.00. Total payable fine is \$305.00

**If you have questions about the SFOA and/or the municipal smoking bylaw contact Algoma Public Health at: (705)759-5286 [ehclerical@algomapublichealth.com](mailto:ehclerical@algomapublichealth.com)**