



# TOBACCO<sub>21</sub>

# Process Map for Implementation

## 1 Local Ordinances Enacted

## 2 Board of Health Process

## 3 Program Roll-out

## Enforcement Process

6 month time frame

Once a T21 ordinance passes, there will be a 6 month period during which the Summit County Board of Health will establish and publicize rules, and SCPH will conduct outreach and education efforts to ensure vendors are aware of the rules and can address any barriers to compliance.

### • County & Townships

Summit County Council passes T21 ordinance. This ordinance will cover the County of Summit and the following townships:

- Bath Township
- Boston Township
- Copley Township
- Coventry Township
- Northfield Center Township
- Richfield Township
- Sagamore Hills Township
- Springfield Township
- Twinsburg Township

### • Cities & Villages

Each city or village passes their own individual T21 ordinances and establish.

- Akron
- Barberton
- Boston Heights
- Clinton
- Cuyahoga Falls
- Fairlawn
- Green
- Hudson
- Lakemore
- Macedonia
- Mogadore
- Munroe Falls
- New Franklin
- Northfield Village
- Norton
- Peninsula
- Reminderville
- Richfield Village
- Silver Lake
- Stow
- Tallmadge
- Twinsburg

### • Authority to Regulate

County and city ordinances will grant Summit County Public Health (SCPH) the authority to issue certificates of compliance to tobacco vendors and the authority to fine tobacco vendors that are not compliant with rules concerning the sales of tobacco to underage customers.

### • Rule-making Period

The Summit County Board of Health will develop rules regarding the certification process, enforcement process and appeals process. The rules will detail protocols for inspectors, the certification process for vendors, and the process for collection of registration payments, and collection of fines.

The Board of Health will read and review the rules three times during public meetings.

### • Vendor Certification

During an initial program roll-out period, SCPH will work closely with townships, cities and villages that have passed a T21 ordinance to identify and certify all tobacco vendors in each municipality. Vendors will pay a \$150.00 one-time fee.

### • Education & Outreach

SCPH will conduct education and outreach efforts to ensure vendors are aware of the new regulations. SCPH will send the requirements, educational materials, smoking cessation resources and required signage to all vendors. Additionally, a community-wide marketing campaign will be launched to foster awareness of the new rules and promote smoking cessation resources.

### • Yearly Compliance Check

Once the program roll-out period has ended, SCPH Registered Sanitarians will begin conducting annual compliance checks of all vendors to check for signage and provide additional education to store employees and managers.

**Enforcement of the T21 ordinance will feature no criminal component. SCPH does not have the authority or intention to fine or charge youth customers or vendor employees.**

Enforcement will be strictly limited to business owners in the form of fines and/or certificate of compliance revocation. Each vendor will be subject to annual compliance check. Additionally, a computer-generated random sampling of vendors will be selected for undercover inspections, and SCPH will investigate all complaints received via phone, email or letter.

### • Enforcement Example

Enforcement action may be triggered by any of the following events:

- A SCPH Sanitarian witnesses tobacco sales to an underage customer.
- A vendor sells tobacco products to an undercover underage customer.
- A complaint is investigated and the vendor is found to be in violation.

The following is one example of how this enforcement process may play out for a noncompliant vendor.

### 1 FIRST OFFENSE - WARNING

Vendor is randomly selected for an inspection. The vendor sells tobacco to an undercover underage customer in view of a SCPH Registered Sanitarian. A warning is issued to the business owner.

### 2 SECOND OFFENSE - \$500 FINE

SCPH receives a complaint that the vendor is continuing to sell tobacco to underage customers. A second inspection is conducted in response to the complaint, and the vendor sells to an undercover underage customer. SCPH issues a \$500 fine to the business owner.

### 3 THIRD OFFENSE - \$1,000 FINE

An SCPH Registered Sanitarian is onsite during a routine inspection and witnesses the vendor sell tobacco to an underage customer. SCPH issues a \$1,000 fine to the business owner.

### 4 FOURTH OFFENSE - CERTIFICATION REVIEW

During an annual compliance check, a SCPH Registered Sanitarian witnesses the vendor sell tobacco to an undercover underage customer. The certification status of the vendor is reviewed by the Summit County Board of Health.