



City of Meriden: Tobacco Free Municipal Properties



The Meriden City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting the use of all tobacco products, including chewing tobacco, cigars, e-cigarettes and other electronic devices within 25 feet of doors, windows and air intakes surrounding all municipal buildings. *

(City Code, Chapter 153: Effective August 21, 2017)

**Hunter Memorial Golf Course is excluded*

Why make municipal properties tobacco free?

A tobacco free ordinance is intended to:

- Protect the health and well being of all Meriden city employees, residents and other visitors to our public buildings and properties by eliminating involuntary exposure to second hand smoke.
- Reduce the amount of tobacco related litter dropped at building entrances and sidewalks surrounding municipal buildings.
- Eliminate the risk of fires that may start from a discarded cigarette butt often seen in mulched garden areas or disposed of in a regular trash receptacle.
- Discourage youth from smoking by setting social norms that lessens youth exposure to harmful and unhealthy behaviors.



The Surgeon General has declared that there is no safe level of second hand smoke. Even small amounts can trigger allergies, asthma attacks and other breathing problems. Second hand smoke contains 7,000 chemicals with 70 of them known to be cancer causing agents. When outdoors smoke can be smelled up to 23 feet away, allowing others nearby to inhale toxic chemicals.

Who will enforce the ordinance? A Meriden Police Officer may issue a citation to any person viewed not following the ordinance following an initial warning. After that, fines may range from \$25 to \$99. Signage has been posted to let people know of the ordinance. City employees may also remind building visitors of the tobacco free ordinance. We also need your help in telling friends and family that tobacco use is not permitted on municipal properties except in designated areas marked by signs.

Where can I get help to quit smoking? The state of Connecticut offers a free quitline – please call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or visit their website at <https://www.quitnow.net/connecticut/>

Funding for this program is from the CT Tobacco and Health Trust Fund and provided by the CT Department of Public Health.