



A message from the Smoke and Tobacco Free Policy Task Force

Dear Anteater Community:

We hope all of you and your loved ones are staying healthy well during this time. While there are currently fewer people on campus, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone our Smoke and Tobacco Free policy is still in full effect.

In January 2014, our campus instituted the University of California's smoke and tobacco-free policy. The guidelines, in part, state: "Smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco products, electronic smoking devices (e.g., e-cigs, vapor cigarettes, personal vaporizers, PVs, or hookahs), and the use of nicotine products not regulated by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration for cessation or to help people quit tobacco, and marijuana or other plant-based products are prohibited on all UCI-controlled properties. This includes all indoor and outdoor spaces, including parking lots, in which the university has a 100 percent ownership interest or an exclusive lease interest." The policy also includes "all parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa L.*," which includes all products derived from hemp, including CBD, and is comprehensive in addressing e-cigarettes as well as specifying how the campus is smoke and tobacco free.

In light of recent reported cases of vaping-associated pulmonary injury (VAPI), we wanted to bring to your attention a message issued 10-1-2019 from the California Department of Public Health, which "is urging everyone to quit vaping altogether, no matter the substance or source, until current investigations are complete."

Policy compliance is very high and continues to improve, making UCI a healthier environment for everyone. In fact, from 2015-2016 to the end of 2018-2019 monitors on our Environmental Health & Safety and Risk Services team report a reduction from 662 to 212 in the number of incidents observed. Our smoke and tobacco-free education efforts have increased, and we continue putting smoke and tobacco-free decals onto all UCI vehicles. Our enforcement efforts focus on information, resources and education. However, meaningful implementation of this policy requires the consistent cooperation of our entire campus community. The policy itself calls for deans, department heads and managers to demonstrate leadership in attaining further compliance.

We realize that adherence to the policy may be difficult for some – particularly newcomers and those here for short periods of time. In addition, we are aware there are places on campus where people who smoke or vape tend to congregate. We continue to monitor these "hot spots" and communicate as directly as possible the purpose and importance of the policy, as well as the smoking cessation resources available.

Student Wellness & Health Promotion has resources for students affected by this policy; UCI Human Resources, Worklife & Wellness provides the same for faculty and staff. The California Smokers' Helpline at 1-800-NO-BUTTS (1-800-662-8887) is available to all members of the campus community, including visitors, who want to learn about its services.

Links to information about these and other resources may be found at ehs.uci.edu/smoke-tobacco-free.

We appreciate the feedback we have received and encourage your input, anonymously or not, at forms.communications.uci.edu/smoke-free.

feedback as we move forward. We care about the welfare of all UCI faculty, staff, students and visitors. We thank you for helping in this effort to improve the health of our community.

Sincerely,

[Smoke and Tobacco Free Policy Task Force](#)

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