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BACKGROUND:

The United States Surgeon General in his 1986 report on Involuntary Smoking concluded:

- Involuntary Smoking is a cause of disease, including lung cancer, in healthy nonsmokers;
- The simple separation of smokers and nonsmokers within the same air space may reduce, but does not eliminate, the exposure of nonsmokers to environmental tobacco smoke.

In 1993, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classified environmental tobacco smoke as a Group A carcinogen, that is, a substance known to cause cancer in humans. The EPA recognizes no safe level of exposure for Group A carcinogens.

Estimates of the number of nonsmokers who die from exposure to environmental tobacco smoke range from 3,000 to 53,000 per year, making it the third largest preventable cause of death in the U.S. behind 434,000 direct tobacco-smoking deaths and 100,000 alcohol-related deaths per year.

POLICY:

Open Door Community Health Centers is dedicated to providing a healthy, comfortable and productive work environment for our employees.

In light of these findings, Open Door Community Health Centers shall be entirely smoke-free effective March 10, 1993. This includes all forms of smoking, vaping, and electronic methods.

Smoking will be strictly prohibited within the company buildings including offices, hallways, exam rooms, waiting rooms, restrooms, lunch rooms, meeting rooms, and all community work areas. This policy applies to all employees, patients, contractors, and visitors.

Copies of this policy shall be distributed to all employees. Signs shall be posted at all building entrances. Those employees who smoke and would like to take this opportunity to quit smoking are invited to participate in the cessation program being offered by Open Door Community Health Centers.

REFERENCES:

ODCHC Policy OPS.004 (retired 9/2017)

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS:

None

KEYWORD TAGS:

Smoking, vaping, e-cigarettes, ecigarettes, tobacco