

## **Electronic Cigarettes and Hookah: Effects on Indoor Air Quality and the Smoke-Free Ordinance**

### **The Problem**

Louisville Metro's current Smoke-Free Ordinance prohibits smoking tobacco in indoor public places and worksites. However, electronic cigarettes and hookah are not explicitly restricted in the 2008 Ordinance.

Electronic cigarette emissions are not a "harmless water vapor," and it is not as safe as clean air. Emissions can contain nicotine, ultrafine particles, and chemicals that are known toxicants, carcinogens, and respiratory irritants. Some of the most commonly identified chemicals from electronic cigarettes include propylene glycol, formaldehyde, metals, particulate matter, and nicotine.

Smoke from a hookah contains many of the same harmful and carcinogenic components as cigarette smoke. A typical hour-long hookah smoking session involves breathing in 100-200 times the volume of smoke inhaled in a single cigarette. Secondhand smoke from a hookah contains a significant amount of tar, nicotine, carbon monoxide, and heavy metals.

Electronic cigarettes and hookah:

- Are tobacco products
- Negatively affect indoor air quality
- Expose non-users to harmful chemicals
- Undermine enforcement efforts and create confusion

### **The Solution**

By making a simple revision to the language in the current ordinance, the use of such products can be restricted in public indoor spaces where smoking and/or tobacco use is already prohibited.

Expanding the Smoke-Free Ordinance to include electronic cigarettes and hookah aligns with the Healthy Louisville 2020 goals of reducing and eliminating exposure to smoking related health hazards and reducing exposure to environmental health hazards. The revised Smoke-Free Ordinance, without any exemptions, would promote clean and smoke-free environments in all public indoor settings and protect Louisville Metro's clean air standards, reduce exposure to indoor air pollutants, protect non-users and employees against exposure to harmful chemicals, and assist with enforcement of the Smoke-Free Ordinance.

### **Support for Expanding Smoke-Free Laws**

- As of January 2, 2017:
  - 589 communities nationwide include electronic cigarettes in their smoke-free laws
  - 14 communities in Kentucky include electronic cigarettes in their smoke-free laws
  - 302 communities nationwide include hookah in their smoke-free laws
  - 11 communities in Kentucky include hookah in their smoke-free laws
- Local, state, national, and worldwide health and advocacy organizations recommend that electronic cigarettes and hookah not be used in public indoor settings
  - 12 local organizations have already stepped up to show their support for including electronic cigarettes and hookah in the Smoke-Free Ordinance
- Over 30 local businesses, healthcare facilities, educational institutions, sports facilities, and entertainment venues in Louisville have proactively prohibited the use of electronic cigarettes and hookah indoors as a part of their smoke-free or wellness policy.

It's not the smoker, it's the smoke. Simply go outside. #breathefreelou