



Orange County Government
Office of County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus
NEWS RELEASE

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Orange County's Tobacco 21 law is now in effect

Orange is first the county in the Hudson Valley to enact the law

Goshen, N.Y. – Orange County's Tobacco 21 Law went into effect on Thursday, June 1st.

Legislation was signed in January to enact a law that would increase the minimum age for purchase of cigarettes and other tobacco products in Orange County from 18 to 21. The Orange County Legislature unanimously approved the proposal in December of last year. Under the Tobacco 21 law, retailers who sell tobacco to someone under 21 could be fined \$300 to \$1,000 for a first offense and between \$500 and \$1,500 for further violations.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), if smoking continues at the current rate among youth in this country, 5.6 million of today's Americans younger than 18 will die early from a smoking-related illness.

Approximately nine out of 10 cigarette smokers first tried smoking by age 18. Each day in the U.S., according to the CDC, more than 3,200 youth aged 18 years or younger smoke their first cigarette, and an additional 2,100 youth and young adults become daily cigarette smokers.

Additional information about a Tobacco free lifestyle and the Tobacco 21 law can be found on the Healthy Orange website at healthyorange.com/tobacco-free-lifestyle/.

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