

## **PURPOSE**

ANTHC seeks to:

- Promote good health;
- Reduce unhealthy behaviors, avoidable illnesses and health costs associated with tobacco use; and
- Protect its workforce, patients, and visitors.

Accordingly, ANTHC seeks to eliminate tobacco use on the properties it operates. This policy exists as one of many methods for ANTHC to support the health and safety of all persons. This is in alignment with and achieves and maintains the mission, vision and values of this organization by promoting wellness through a healthy and safe environment.

## **RATIONALE**

Research indicates that smoking is the second largest preventable cause of illness and premature death in the United States. Alaska Native people have the highest rate of tobacco use of all ethnic groups in the United States and cancer is the leading cause of death among Alaska Native people. More than 400,000 people die annually as a result of tobacco use. Moreover, exposure to second-hand smoke is linked to a variety of negative health consequences and is responsible for approximately 53,000 deaths annually among nonsmokers in the United States.

## **SCOPE**

Individuals covered by this policy include employees, workforce members, patients, customers, visitors, and contractors.

## **POLICY**

It is the policy of ANTHC to provide a tobacco free environment. Tobacco use in any form is prohibited on and within all buildings, facilities, vehicles and property whether owned, leased, controlled or used<sup>1</sup> by ANTHC. This shall include all privately owned vehicles when located on such property and ANTHC owned or operated vehicles wherever located.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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<sup>1</sup> Includes property pursuant to the Compact or applicable funding agreement.

## **1.1 Workforce**

1.1.1 All workforce members are expected to honor the intent of this policy, which is to provide a tobacco-free zone for all patients, visitors and workforce members.

1.1.2 All workforce members are expected to maintain ANTHC's commitment to a professional image. The workforce will be encouraged to quit using tobacco, and utilize the programs and services available to avoid tobacco use.

1.1.3 Workforce members shall not expose patients, visitors and co-workers to second-hand smoke and/or the smell of tobacco from their person. See also ANTHC Dress and Personal Appearance Policy .

1.1.4 This policy prohibits all workforce members from having visible tobacco products on their persons while on or in ANTHC buildings, facilities and other properties.

1.1.5 Employees who fail to comply with this policy will be subject to ANTHC's applicable policy\procedures # XXXX including but not limited to discipline and termination.

## **2.1 Visitors**

2.1.1 Visitors are not permitted to use tobacco products while on ANTHC property including privately owned vehicles.

2.1.2 Visitors will be reminded of the ban of tobacco products. Any workforce member can make this notification. In an attempt to assist visitors with potential nicotine cravings, Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) products may be made available through a self-serve vending machine.

2.1.3 Informational cards will be available for all workforce members to give to visitors who are observed using tobacco on ANTHC property. Workforce members can use the card as a prompt to explain the ANTHC policy.

2.1.4 If the visitor refuses to comply with the policy, the workforce member should contact

security or the designated representative and ask for assistance.

### **3.1 Patients**

#### **3.1.1 Inpatient Tobacco Users**

3.1.1.1 Upon admission, each patient will be offered a referral to the ANMC Tobacco Program.

3.1.1.2 No patient shall receive NRT or counseling assistance after discharge unless they agree to enroll in a Tobacco Program.

#### **3.1.2 Outpatient Tobacco Users**

3.1.2.1 Each patient will be offered a referral to the Tobacco Program.

3.1.2.2 No patient shall receive NRT or counseling assistance unless they agree to enroll in the Tobacco Program.

### **4.1 Employee Tobacco Programs**

4.1.1 In an effort to support and encourage healthy behaviors, avoid illnesses and to improve the health and welfare of ANTHC employees, NRT, counseling and nicotine dependence treatment medications will be made available to employees who wish to quit tobacco per employee's applicable health plan.

4.1.2 All employees will have access to an organizational nicotine dependent treatment program. All employees committed to being enrolled will be granted a one-time opportunity of two hours of paid time to pursue nicotine dependence treatment.

### **DEFINITIONS**

- ANMC is the accredited campus of the Alaska Native Medical Center which is comprised of the Hospital and the Primary Care Center.
- Workforce is the employees, contractors, volunteers, residents, interns and students of ANTHC.
- Tobacco products include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chew, Iqmik,

Dedigus,<sup>2</sup> ash and pipe tobacco.

- Tobacco program means any services to help an individual to better understand or quit tobacco use, not limited to counseling, Nicotine Replacement Therapies and Zyban.

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<sup>2</sup> Iqmik and Dedigus are Yupik and Athabaskan terms for a home-made tobacco product which consists of tobacco mixed with ash.