



MAY 2019

Pharmacies provide medicine and services to help customers stay healthy and get better, including products to help customers quit smoking. In California, 82% of pharmacists and 72% of adults believe pharmacies should not sell tobacco. Selling tobacco does not promote images of health. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Cities and counties should expect pharmacies to promote health and wellness, rather than disease and death associated with tobacco products. Between 2012 and 2017, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspected several U.S. chain pharmacies and found out that many of these places were caught selling tobacco products to minors. In 2014, CVS Pharmacy was the first major pharmacy that went tobacco free, with hopes of other companies to follow suit.

In August of 2008, San Francisco became the first city in the U.S to implement a tobacco-free pharmacy law after great opposition from Walgreens and Philip Morris. Since then, twenty-three communities have passed similar tobacco-free pharmacy policies. These communities are sending clearer messages of health and reducing opportunities of illegal sales of tobacco to minors. Communities with tobacco-free pharmacies help reduce the density of stores that people can purchase tobacco from.

The Center has additional resources on tobacco retailer licensing ordinances, plug-in policies, and ordinances restricting menthol tobacco available at: <http://center4tobaccopolicy.org/tobacco-policy/tobacco-retail-environment/>.

Alameda (November 2018)
Berkeley (September 2014)
Cloverdale (November 2017)
Contra Costa County (July 2018)
Corte Madera (March 2019)
Daly City (September 2015)
Half Moon Bay (October 2018)
Healdsburg (December 2014)
Hollister (June 2015)
Larkspur (April 2019)
Los Gatos (May 2017)
Marin County (August 2014)

Novato (January 2017)
Palo Alto (July 2018)
Portola Valley (September 2018)
Richmond (November 2009)
San Carlos (April 2019)
San Francisco (October 2008)
San Mateo County (June 2018)
Santa Clara County (October 2010)
Saratoga (October 2018)
Sonoma County (July 2018)
Tiburon (July 2018)