

## Tobacco Use Policy

### **Philosophy:**

Riverland Community College is committed to creating a healthy, clean, and safe learning and working environment for all students and employees and complying with the intent of the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities guidance, and other relevant legislation.

In light of findings of the U.S. Surgeon General that exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and the use of tobacco are significant health hazards, the college intends to establish a tobacco-free environment.

The success of this policy will depend upon the cooperation of all faculty, staff, and students to comply with this policy and to encourage others to comply with the policy in order to promote a healthy, clean, and safe environment in which to work, study, and live.

### **Policy:**

Effective July 1, 2011, smoking, tobacco use, and tobacco sales (including the use or sales of smokeless tobacco products) are prohibited on college-owned, operated, or leased property, including in college-owned, rented, or leased vehicles. Free distribution of tobacco products on campus or at college-sponsored events is also prohibited.

### **Definitions:**

**Smoking:** The burning of any type of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, bidi, glove cigarette, electronic cigarettes, or any other smoking equipment, whether filled with tobacco or any other type of smoking material.

**Smokeless Tobacco Products:** Smokeless or spit tobacco including, but not limited to snuff, dip, chewing tobacco, snus, smokeless pouches, or other forms of loose-leaf tobacco in any form.

### **Cessation Programs and Services**

To support Riverland students and employees who wish to reduce and/or quit using tobacco products, a variety of tobacco cessation resources and services are available through Student Services and Human Resources offices.

### **Violations**

Enforcement of this policy will depend upon the cooperation of all faculty, staff, and students as well as campus visitors not only to ensure that Riverland Community College is truly tobacco-free but also to help and encourage others to comply with the policy.

In the event of a violation, the person will be informed verbally of Riverland Community College's Tobacco-Free Campus Policy. Should that person continue to violate the policy, a report should be made to the appropriate office: in the case of an employee, to that person's supervisor; in the case of a student, to the college student conduct officer; in the case of a visitor, to the president's office or either of the vice presidents' offices.

Violations of this policy by employees will be handled through the progressive disciplinary

process as outlined in the employee's bargaining unit contract.

Violations by students will be handled through the progressive disciplinary process as outlined in the student handbook:

<http://www.riverland.edu/studenthandbook/index.cfm>.

Persistent offenders may be subject to additional sanctions per the Student Conduct Code.

### **Policy Exceptions**

1. All research, educational, and/or artistic purposes that involve the use of tobacco on campus, must be approved by the college president or his/her designee. Such use must be preceded by reasonable advance notice to the public.
2. This policy does not apply to specific activities when tobacco is used in connection with the practice of cultural activities, including those of American Indians that are in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. sections 1996 and 1996a. All ceremonial use exceptions must be approved in advance by the college president or his/her designee.
3. Tobacco use inside private vehicles is permitted as long as tobacco users demonstrate respect for individuals and the environment.

In February 2011, the American Lung Association conducted a tobacco use and health-risk survey of Riverland's employees and students. The documents below show their results.

- [Riverland Tobacco Use Graph Overview](#)
- [Student Response](#)
- [Survey Summary](#)
- [Survey Summary Tobacco Use](#)
- [Survey Summary Employees](#)
- [Survey Summary Austin](#)
- [Survey Summary Albert Lea](#)
- [Survey Summary Owatonna](#)