

Smoking and Vaping Ban

Policy

The purpose of this policy is to support public health objectives and ensure there is no smoking or use of e-cigarettes (vaping) on school premises (buildings and grounds), within 4 metres of school entrances or at school sanctioned events held off-premises.

Summary

- In Victoria, a person must not smoke or vape on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises
- The prohibition on smoking includes vaping and applies whether or not the e-cigarette contains nicotine
- Cigarettes and e-cigarettes cannot be sold to people under 18 years of age
- It is a legislative requirement that schools must display suitable 'No smoking or vaping' signs at all pedestrian access points (entrances) to the school grounds. The legislation defines smoking to include e-cigarettes
- Smoking and vaping are not permitted during school events and excursions held off school premises
- Use or possession of an e-cigarette does not fall under any of the grounds for suspension of a student
- [Guidance](https://www.education.vic.gov.au) can be found education.vic.gov.au website

Details

A person must not smoke cigarettes, including e-cigarettes (regardless of whether they contain nicotine) within school premises and within 4 metres of any pedestrian access to school premises. Smoking in these places is a fineable offence.

The smoking and vaping ban applies to:

- anyone present on school premises during and outside of school hours including students, teachers, contractors, parents or carers or the wider community, such as sporting groups
- all activities that take place on school premises including pre-schools, kindergartens, outside school hours care, cultural, sporting or recreational activities and school fetes

The department also bans smoking and vaping at school events and excursions held off school premises.

The [Department of Health website](#) has further advice, factsheets and diagrams to help schools define premises and pedestrian access points where smoking and vaping is banned.

'No Smoking or Vaping' signage requirement

Schools must:

- display 'No Smoking or Vaping' signs at each pedestrian access point to the school premises. Free 'No Smoking or Vaping' signs can be ordered and downloaded through the Department of Health website
- display the signs in such a prominent position at each entrance to make it clear that the area at or within 4 metres of that entrance is a 'No Smoking or Vaping' area

Other actions

Principals or their delegate must ensure that the whole school community is aware that smoking and vaping are not permitted on school premises and within 4 metres of school entrances. This may be achieved through the signage required at each entrance. If further measures are required (due to non-compliance), notices in the school newsletter, on the school website and direct communication with specific staff, students, parents/carers or visitors who are non-compliant may be required.

It is recommended that principals or their delegate:

- remind the school community that smoking and vaping are not permitted at school-sanctioned events held off school premises
- where relevant remind staff that a person must not smoke or vape in a motor vehicle if a person under 18 years is also present in the motor vehicle
- encourage employees who require support to comply with the ban to:
 - contact Quitline (calling 13 78 48, texting or requesting callback, online webchat) – Quitline is a friendly, confidential service with trained counsellors who provide practical advice tailored for each person
 - contact their general practitioner (GP)
 - use the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) on 1800 818 728
- make tobacco and vaping education, information and staff training available to support students not to smoke or vape – refer to the Guidance section on the education.vic.gov.au website.

Definitions

Electronic cigarettes

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are electronic devices which heat and vaporise liquids that may or may not contain nicotine or flavouring agents. The vapour is inhaled, simulating the act of smoking. Use of e-cigarettes is commonly referred to as 'vaping'.

Advice for the school community

- [Quit Victoria and VicHealth: Get the facts on vaping](#) – contains information for parents, carers, and influential adults to inform conversations about vaping with young people in their lives
- [Quit Victoria: Start the conversation](#) – practical tips to help speak to young people about the risks of vaping
- [VicHealth: Talk to your teen about vaping](#) – conversation guide that considers a young person's attitude and behaviours
- [Royal Children's Hospital: e-cigarettes and teens](#) – contains information on how to talk to teens about the health risks of using e-cigarettes, including video with paediatricians
- [Alcohol and Drug Foundation: talking about vaping with young people](#) – practical tips to help speak to young people about the risks of vaping

- [Department of Education: Smoking and vaping: advice for parents](#) – information for parents and carers about the impacts of smoking and vaping with their children
Factsheets for the school community (from education.vic.gov.au)
- [Smoking and vaping: advice for schools \(DOCX\)](#) – outlines the facts of smoking and vaping, and resources schools can access to support their school community
- [Smoking and vaping: advice for parents \(DOCX\)](#) – this document is tailored for parents and may be useful for them to discuss the impacts of smoking and vaping with their children

Review

April 2024

Next Review

December 2026

Responsibility

Deputy Principal Wellbeing