

Summary of Proposed Skagit County Smoking and Vaping in Public Places Ordinance

Establishes Chapter 12.51 Smoking and Vaping in Public Places in Skagit County Code that:

- Prohibits smoking or vaping of any substances in any indoor public place and in any place of employment, including the area within 25 feet of doors, windows, and ventilation intakes of such buildings. Places of employment also includes outdoor work areas for employees.
- Prohibits smoking and vaping outdoors on the property of schools and childcare facilities and on outdoor public spaces where children congregate, including playgrounds, parks, beaches, athletic fields, and stadiums.
- In accordance with the state Vapor Products Law (RCW 70.345), the ordinance provides limited exceptions to the prohibition on vaping for tastings of vapor products in licensed vapor product retail outlets where entry is restricted to those 18 and older.
- Requires “No Vaping” signs at each entrance to a public building. These signs may be combined with the “No Smoking” signs already required under state law. Requires “No Smoking” and “No Vaping” signs at appropriate locations in outdoor public places where smoking and vaping is prohibited.
- Authorizes notifications, inspections, and enforcement by the Skagit County Health Officer and Public Health Department.

The ordinance:

- Incorporates the WA State Smoking in Public Places law (RCW 70.160) into County Code; and
- Is aligned with the WA State Vapor Products Law (RCW 70.345) which regulates the sales and promotion of vapor products, prohibits vaping in certain public places where children congregate, and allows counties to further regulate the use of vapor products in indoor public places and outdoor public places where children congregate.