

Maine Tobacco-Free Behavioral Health:

POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER TO CLIENTS TEMPLATE

[Current Date]

New Tobacco-Free Policy at [Behavioral Health Organization] Paves the Way for Health and Recovery

To Our Clients:

Beginning on [policy date], [Behavioral Health Organization] will adopt a campus-wide tobacco-free policy. This policy means that clients, visitors, employees, and providers are prohibited from using any tobacco products inside buildings, in parking lots, in company owned vehicles, or on facility grounds.

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of death and disease in this country with over 480,000 deaths per year, almost half of those from smokers with a mental health diagnosis. This population consumes almost 40% of all cigarettes consumed in the US. Research has shown that adults with a mental health diagnosis are interested in quitting smoking and participation in tobacco treatment helps patients address their alcohol use and use of other substances, as well. Therefore, to further promote wellness and recovery, [Behavioral Health Organization] is adopting a tobacco-free policy.

Upon your visit or admission to [Behavioral Health Organization], staff will conduct an assessment about your tobacco use and any interest in being tobacco-free. This information will be used to support tobacco treatment, including the use of treatment medications, and to discuss available resources. If you choose to quit or reduce your tobacco use, our trained behavioral health providers can provide you with the necessary tools to undergo treatment. In addition to your provider, free tobacco treatment is available through the Maine Tobacco Helpline at 1-800-207-1230 or theQuitLink.com.

Thank you for your cooperation with this [Behavioral Health Organization] policy as we transition to a clean air environment for staff, clients, vendors, and visitors.

Sincerely,

CEO or Clinical Director

BREATHE EASY

REDUCING SMOKE EXPOSURE IN MAINE

BreatheEasyMaine.org/Behavioral-Health



**MAINE
PREVENTION
SERVICES**

Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services