

Orange Co. health officials want to ban e-cigarettes in restaurants, bars

By WNCN Staff Published: February 23, 2016, 11:51 am Updated: February 23, 2016, 7:30 pm



AP Photo/Frank Franklin II

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. (WNCN) – Orange County Health officials are looking to ban electronic cigarettes at restaurants and bars.

County health officials are citing new research for the change. Emerging research suggests people who breathe in second-hand vapor from e-cigarettes could face potential health risks, according to the Orange County Health Department.

“Some of those chemicals have been tested and are known irritants and some of them are known to cause disease,” said Coby Jansen Austin, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Director for the Orange County Health Department. “The board feels that given the current science, this is an important move for them to take to help protect the health of people here in Orange County.”

Orange County Health officials said they would enforce the ban like the current smoking ban.

Marc Sylvestre, vice president of The Vapor Girl in Chapel Hill, believes the ban is premature and calls it a “slap in the face for people who vape.”

“Right now the FDA is doing numerous studies on the effects of FDA vapor and they have not yet found any dangerous evidence or harm from second hand vapor,” said Sylvestre. “I think it will hurt business in Orange County because a lot of people are going to go to bars and restaurants in Durham County or Alamance County where you’re allowed to vape.”

Last month — Durham County issued a ban on e-cigarettes on city and county property, including parks, trails, and athletic fields. Orange County would be one of the first counties in the state to pass an e-cigarette proposal in bars and restaurants.

Officials said it could take a couple of months to write the policy and they will seek public comment. County health officials said a vote could come as early as March or April.

If the ban is passed, county health officials said there would be plenty of time for business owners to prepare for the change before the new rule is implemented.

Orange County moves to ban e-cigarettes

MEGAN ROYER | PUBLISHED 02/22/16 10:47PM

CORRECTIONS: Due to a reporting error, the original version of this story misrepresented an Orange County Board of Health memo. The memo was sent to health department staff. Due to another reporting error, the original version of this story misrepresented the places e-cigarettes are banned. E-cigarettes are banned in the Chapel Hill Public Library, some worksites and private businesses. The story has been updated to reflect these changes.

Individuals who smoke e-cigarettes may not be able to do so inside bars and restaurants in Orange County much longer.

The Orange County Board of Health sent a memo to health department staff, directing them to prepare a policy that would prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in already smoke-free indoor areas of restaurants and bars.

Coby Jansen Austin, senior public health educator at the Orange County Health Department, said research from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention may suggest negative health effects are not limited to only the users of e-cigarettes.

Austin said since e-cigarettes are relatively new products, they have not been around long enough to study long-term risks. Using e-cigarettes indoors can lead to secondhand exposure to the aerosol, which can irritate the lungs and eyes of people around e-cigarette smokers, Austin said.

“(This is) especially concerning for children with asthma and other people with respiratory problems,” Austin said.

Austin also said some local high school students have expressed their concern regarding e-cigarette use by peers.

“(We have seen) an overall increase in tobacco use among youth due to novelty products such as e-cigs,” Austin said.

Mayor Pam Hemminger said in an email that the rise in e-cigarette use by middle school and high school students is equally as concerning as the potential health problems from secondhand exposure to e-cigarette aerosol.

Austin said places like the Chapel Hill Public Library and some worksites and private businesses have already restricted the use of e-cigarettes.

She said the Board of Health hopes to have a draft of the rule for public feedback by April, and implementation would happen by the fall.

“The county’s process to draft (the) policy will offer an opportunity to educate the public about the hazards and benefits of e-cigarettes for users and others nearby,” Hemminger said.

Hemminger said she anticipates people with strong opinions on both sides of the e-cigarette discussion.

Town council member George Cianciolo said he does not anticipate a lot of opposition to the potential policy.

“(For) restaurants that are currently banning regular cigarettes, (I) don’t think they will have a problem with e-cigarettes,” Cianciolo said.

Cianciolo also said there is often no information as to what else is in the solution that generates the vapor that e-cigarettes produce.

“It’s a good step forward, and from my perspective as a scientist, it’s a good step forward by the health department,” Cianciolo said.

Cianciolo said he is concerned about issues of enforceability once the policy is implemented. He said, generally, where Chapel Hill has had the biggest problem with smoking ordinances is people complaining about others smoking at public places, like bus stops.

“You can pass laws, but enforcement of some are more difficult,” Cianciolo said. “We don’t have enough folks to enforce (all of them).”

Cianciolo said the county and Town Council would need to see if there are different problems with enforcing an e-cigarette policy as opposed to a regular cigarette policy.

Town council member Jessica Anderson is also concerned about the enforceability of the potential policy for bars and restaurants.

“It’s on the business owner to enforce it, which is always hard,” she said. “It sounds like (the county is) going to have to take that into account.”

Michael Schillinger, a bartender at Linda’s Bar and Grill in Chapel Hill, said he is not concerned that this policy would affect business.

“Most people that come in here end up going outside to smoke real cigarettes,” Schillinger said.

He also said he has occasionally seen customers smoke e-cigarettes inside the bar, but no one seemed to mind.

Similarly, Justin Dreaver, manager of Hickory Tavern in Carrboro, said he does not anticipate many problems that may come with a new e-cigarette policy.

Dreaver said he has not seen any customers smoke e-cigarettes inside the restaurant in the time he has been manager.

“I just moved from Florida, and I saw a lot more of that there,” Dreaver said. “Maybe (customers) choose not to (use e-cigarettes) in here. My stance is more neutral. I don’t really have a problem with it.”

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Read more: <http://www.dailytarheel.com/article/2016/02/orange-county-moves-to-ban-e-cigarettes>

Quoted from The Daily Tar Heel

The Herald-Sun

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- March 10, 2016



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Ayeka Ruff, 14, right, waits to get a simulated vaccination from Doris Hill, a registered nurse with the Orange County Health Department, left, during a full-scale public health preparedness exercise at Cedar Ridge High School in Hillsborough on March 9, 2016. Orange County Health Department in partnership with Orange County Emergency Services, Orange County Public Schools, and the Orange County Sheriff's Office held a mass vaccination exercise in Cedar Ridge's gymnasium Wednesday afternoon. The Herald-Sun | Whitney Keller



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Rebekah Hermann, a registered nurse with the Orange County Health Department reaches for gauze during a full-scale public health preparedness exercise at Cedar Ridge High School in Hillsborough on March 9, 2016. Orange County Health Department in partnership with Orange County Emergency Services, Orange County Public Schools, and the Orange County Sheriff's Office held a mass vaccination exercise in Cedar Ridge's gymnasium Wednesday afternoon. The Herald-Sun | Whitney Keller



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Rebekah Hermann, a registered nurse with the Orange County Health Department, front left, talks with John Kase during a full-scale public health preparedness exercise at Cedar Ridge High School in Hillsborough on March 9, 2016. Orange County Health Department in partnership with Orange County Emergency Services, Orange County

Public Schools, and the Orange County Sheriff's Office held a mass vaccination exercise in Cedar Ridge's gymnasium Wednesday afternoon. The Herald-Sun | Whitney Keller



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Participants wait in line to receive a simulated vaccination during a full-scale public health preparedness exercise at Cedar Ridge High School in Hillsborough on March 9, 2016. Orange County Health Department in partnership with Orange County Emergency Services, Orange County Public Schools, and the Orange County Sheriff's Office held a mass vaccination exercise in Cedar Ridge's gymnasium Wednesday afternoon. The Herald-Sun | Whitney Keller

HILLSBOROUGH -- Cammie Albert got a whooping cough shot Wednesday, and she didn't feel a thing.

That's because she and other volunteers participated in a simulated mass vaccination at Cedar Ridge High School to prepare officials if a real health emergency happens.

The public health preparedness exercise was sponsored by the Orange County Health Department and other county agencies.

Volunteers gathered in the school's gym to fill out paperwork and get their "shots".

On Target Preparedness was hired to oversee the exercise.

"The Centers for Disease Control and the state require health departments to participate in a full-scale exercise that does mass vaccinations or dispenses medications every five years," On Target owner David Hasselmeyer said. "Any lessons learned will be incorporated into future training exercises."

Cammie Albert, a junior at Cedar Ridge, said she volunteered because she wanted to be prepared to help in a real crisis. She volunteers with the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, and wanted more experience in dealing with emergencies.

Denis Armstrong Carter, a sophomore at Cedar Ridge, decided to speak with a Ukranian accent to add variety to the exercise.

"I like doing natural-disaster things, and it's fun to help the community," he said. "I wanted to see how quickly we can respond to this."

Taylor Balog, a 10th-grader at Orange High School, also volunteers with the Civil Air Patrol, where she participates in search operations.

"I came here to play the victim," she said before heading into the gym.

Also participating was 14-year-old Weston Hubbell, a student at C.W. Stanford Middle School.

"I thought it would be interesting to help people be safe and help the community," he said.

Stacy Shelp, public information officer for the Orange County Health Department, said Wednesday's event should reassure the public.

"It's the best way to test and train your staff for a real-world scenario," she said. "It's not just a plan that sits on a shelf. The more that we can be prepared for the unexpected, the better it will be for all of us."



North Carolina Kids to 'Kick Butts' on March 16

State Leaders Urged to Make the Next Generation Tobacco-Free

WASHINGTON, March 11, 2016 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Kids in North Carolina will stand up to Big Tobacco on March 16 as they join thousands of young people nationwide for Kick Butts Day. More than 1,000 events are planned across the United States and around the world for this annual day of youth activism, sponsored by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. (See below for a list of local events.)

On Kick Butts Day, kids demand that tobacco companies stop marketing deadly products to them and encourage elected officials to help reduce youth tobacco use.

This year, Kick Butts Day is focusing attention on the outrageous marketing tactics tobacco companies still use to target youth. These tactics include:

- Splashy ads in magazines with large youth readership, such as Sports Illustrated, Glamour and Rolling Stone.
- Widespread advertising and price discounts in stores, which make tobacco products appealing and affordable to kids.
- Sweet-flavored tobacco products such as electronic cigarettes and small cigars that come in flavors like gummy bear, cotton candy, watermelon and fruit punch. While youth cigarette smoking has fallen to record lows, the most recent government survey shows that e-cigarette use among high school students tripled from 2013 to 2014 (from 4.5 percent to 13.4 percent).

Nationwide, tobacco companies spend \$9.6 billion a year – over one million dollars every hour – to market tobacco products. In North Carolina, tobacco companies spend \$392.2 million annually on marketing efforts.

"On Kick Butts Day, kids stand up to the tobacco industry and all of us, especially our elected officials, should stand with them," said Matthew L. Myers, President of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. "We've made amazing progress in reducing youth smoking and can make the next generation tobacco-free. Elected officials in every state should help reach that goal by supporting proven strategies to prevent youth tobacco use, including higher tobacco taxes, strong smoke-free laws, prevention programs and raising the tobacco age to 21."

In North Carolina, tobacco use claims 14,200 lives and costs \$3.81 billion in health care bills each year. Currently, 15 percent of North Carolina's high school students smoke.

On Kick Butts Day, kids join in creative events that range from classroom activities about the harmful ingredients in cigarettes to rallies at state capitols.

In North Carolina, activities include:

An anti-tobacco rally will take place at the Education Building of the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds, including school spirit booths, competitive events, and activities for all ages. The event will showcase the students' year-round community efforts along with anti-tobacco pledges. Time: 4 PM. Location: 421 27th Street NW, Winston-Salem. Contact: Terri Moy (336) 705-9019.

The Butler DREAM Team will draw bodies with chalk around the entire perimeter of Butler High School with a heavy emphasis on the entrances to parking lots and car pool lines. Stakes in the ground will display tobacco facts to raise awareness. Time: 10:30 AM. Location: 1810 Matthews Mint Hill Road, Matthews. Contact: Mary Ferreri (980) 343-6300.

Bike Routes for Fitness will host a cycling event in Charlotte to promote tobacco-free public spaces. Bicyclists will ride a designated bus route and distribute literature, buttons and t-shirts to passengers on city and school bus routes. Time: 2 PM. Location: 310 East Trade Street, Charlotte. Contact: Debra Franklin (704) 886-8221.

On March 19th, the Orange County Health Department will partner with Tobacco Reality Unfiltered (TRU) clubs in local high schools to raise awareness about the smoke-free public places rule. Participants will collect cigarette butts in downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro, share information on the policy, and provide resources for quitting tobacco. Time: 10:30 AM. Location: Franklin Street, Chapel Hill. Contact: Stacy Shelp (919) 245-2462.

All events are on March 16 unless otherwise indicated. For a full list of Kick Butts Day activities in North Carolina, visit www.kickbuttsday.org/map. Additional information about tobacco, including state-by-state statistics, can be found at www.tobaccofreekids.org.

Youth Anti-Smoking Events Planned For Wednesday

By [Chris Grunert](#)

Posted March 15, 2016 at 3:25 pm



Photo via Tobacco Free Kids

Young people across the country will gather on Wednesday to say no to smoking.

Kick Butts Day, like cigarette butts, is a day of activism against big tobacco companies and youth smoking.

Gustavo Torrez is the director of youth advocacy for the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. He says tobacco companies spend billions of dollars each year in advertising and much of that is target at youth.

“The goal of Kick Butts day is truly to provide a space to young people to really come together and say enough is enough, they’re tired of being marketed and target to by the tobacco industry,” said Torrez.

According to the Center for Disease Control, cigarette smoke causes more than 480,000 deaths a year in the United States.

Joshua Pritchett is a nationally recognized anti-tobacco youth advocate. He says a simple awareness of the dangers of smoking is a deterrent to young people.

“It’s really just informing them. If you inform the youth and show them the effect it has on the body, they take it in, they really do understand,” said Pritchett.

This year marks the 21st annual Kick Butts day and youth smoking has certainly decreased since these events began.

“For the last 20 years we really been focusing on trying to reduce youth smoking rates and we’ve done so by reducing the high school smoking rate more than half” said Torrez.

According to the CDC, 15.7% of high schools students in 2013 were smokers, down from 36.4% in 1997.

Torrez said increasing taxes on cigarettes is another good way to reduce smoking, as well as putting pressure on local government.

“We really need to reach out to our legislators to pass comprehensive smoke free air laws,” said Torrez, “because we know that when we protect our communities from the dangers of second hand smoke, we are having more conversations about the issues and the effects it’s having on our community.”

Anti-smoking advocates are now dealing with a new wild card, E-cigarettes. Often advertised as a safe alternative to traditional cigarettes, the FDA admits they have not been fully studied to know all of the potential risks.

Torrez said E-cigarettes are also being heavily marketed to children.

“These products are being marketed with flavors like gummy bears, cotton candy, watermelon, which as you mentioned are very appealing to our young people,” said Torrez.

Torrez says we need more regulation of E-cigarettes. He warned that E-cigarettes could undo some of the recent progress made by anti-smoking campaigns by getting kids addicted to nicotine.

But Torrez said the ultimate goal of organization like the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, is to create a smoke-free generation.

In the same anti-smoking spirit, the Orange County Health Department is partnering with Tobacco Reality Unfiltered (TRU) clubs at local high schools to collect cigarette butts in downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro and provide resources to quit smoking this Saturday.

[Kick Butts Day events](#) are being held all across the country.

The Herald-Sun

Durham 15th, Orange 2nd in N.C. health rankings

- [Keith Upchurch](#)
- March 17, 2016

DURHAM -- Durham ranked 15th in health among North Carolina's 100 counties and Orange County ranked second in an annual report released Wednesday.

Durham County dipped from 11th to 15th healthiest, according to the seventh-annual County Health Rankings by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

Although Durham County's overall ranking for 2016 dipped slightly, the county has consistently ranked in the top 25 percent of counties in North Carolina, placing eighth in 2012 and 17th in 2013 and 2014. Gayle Harris, director of the Durham County Department of Public Health, said building a healthy community "is not an overnight process."

"Highs and lows are to be expected, as we transform our community," Harris said. "Although we have made strides in many areas, some, such as child poverty and income inequality, are much more complex and take years, if not a generation, to turn around."

Harris said Durham's health "goes far deeper than having world-class health care in our backyard. Affordable housing, education, and income equality significantly impact overall health as well." Harris said organizations including the Partnership for a Healthy Durham and annual meetings such as the Duke-Durham Health Summit work to identify and tackle health problems.

Here are some of the study's findings for Durham County compared to North Carolina as a whole:

- Premature deaths: 6,200 per 100,000 population compared to 7,200 statewide.
- Access to exercise opportunities: 91 percent vs. 71 percent.
- Children in poverty: 22 percent vs. 24 percent.
- Children in single-parent households: 42 percent vs. 36 percent.
- Uninsured: 18 percent vs. 18 percent.
- Diabetic monitoring: 91 percent vs. 89 percent.
- Violent crime: 648 per 100,000 population vs. 355 per 100,000 population statewide..
- Severe housing problems: 19 percent vs. 17 percent.

The study cited the following "areas of strength" in Durham:

- Mammography screening: 67 percent.
- Unemployment: 5 percent.

"Areas to explore" include:

- Adult smoking: 17 percent.
- Adult obesity: 28 percent.
- Sexually transmitted infections: 716 per 100,000 residents.

In Orange County, Dr. Colleen Bridger, director of the Orange County Health Department, said a community's health is largely determined by its education and wealth.

"Orange County typically leads the way in both of these things, which is why it isn't surprising that we are consistently ranked as one of the healthiest counties in the state," Bridger said. "Unfortunately, what this doesn't show is the county's dramatic income inequality. Basically, we have a lot of people at the top of the income scale and a lot of people at the bottom of the income scale."

Bridger said the county "is not resting on our ranking, but instead, we are taking action through programs including the Family Success Alliance to battle the adverse effects of poverty by strengthening a pipeline of success for our low-income families."

For more information, visit www.countyhealthrankings.org