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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Alcohol Merchant Sales Compliance Checks

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick County Health Department’s Merchant Sales Compliance Initiative conducts random merchant compliance checks of Frederick County businesses in an effort to reduce minors’ access to alcohol and tobacco products. In March 2021, 24 alcohol businesses were checked, and eight sold alcohol to the underage buyers. These violations were referred to the Frederick County Liquor Board. The complete report of businesses checked and the results are available [here](#). Funding for these activities is provided by the Maryland Department of Health.

Between March 2020 and February 2021, there were no alcohol compliance checks conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally no tobacco merchant compliance checks were conducted during the first quarter of 2021.

In Frederick County, underage individuals assist in the execution of both alcohol and tobacco merchant compliance checks. All underage individuals possess their valid state-issued ID or driver’s license, which is provided to every merchant who asks for identification. If the merchant asks their age, the buyers are required to reply truthfully. All underage individuals are accompanied and observed by a plainclothes officer.

Tobacco and alcohol use by minors can harm their physical health and impair healthy brain development. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, nearly 90 percent of adult smokers began smoking before age 18. Additionally, according to the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), about 60% of teens reported having at least one drink of alcohol by age 18. Environmental

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strategies, including policy and enforcement efforts, are identified as strategies to prevent the misuse of alcohol and tobacco by youth, according to the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

For more information about the Frederick County Health Department, Merchant Sales Compliance Initiative, call 301-600-1755 or visit

[https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/557/Merchant-Compliance-Initiative.](https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/557/Merchant-Compliance-Initiative)

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