



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

CONTACT: Rissah Watkins
301-600-6005

TTY: 800-735-2258

RWatkins@FrederickCountyMD.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JULY 10, 2023

Alcohol Merchant Sales Compliance Check Update

FREDERICK, MD -- Between April and June 2023, the Frederick County Health Department's Merchant Sales Compliance Initiative supported compliance checks of 10 alcohol licensees in Frederick County. Of the 10 licensees inspected, 7 passed and 3 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 is available [here](#).

The Merchant Sales Compliance Initiative aims to reduce youth access to alcohol and tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, by conducting random merchant compliance checks of businesses located in Frederick County. The program goal is to protect public health and promote health and wellness among our youth. Funding for these activities is provided by the Maryland Department of Health.

Environmental strategies, including policy and enforcement efforts, are effective strategies in preventing the misuse of tobacco by youth, according to the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. A compliance check is a tool to identify retail establishments that sell tobacco products, including e-cigarette products, to individuals under the age of 21. Compliance checks are effective in reducing underage retail access to these products.

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

For more information about the Frederick County Merchant Sales Compliance Initiative, call 301-600-1755 or visit: Health.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Merchants.

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Barbara A. Brookmyer, M.D., M.P.H. ▪ Health Officer

350 Montevue Lane ▪ Frederick, MD 21702

Phone: 301-600-1029 ▪ Fax: 301-600-3111 ▪ MD TTY: 1-800-735-2258

