



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

Tobacco Merchant Sales Compliance Check Update

FREDERICK, MD -- Between July and September 2023, the Frederick County Health Department's Tobacco Merchant Sales Compliance Initiative conducted 39 tobacco sales compliance inspections. Of the 39 businesses inspected, 21 passed and 18 were issued civil citations for non-compliance with state law. 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 regulated goods, including alcohol, tobacco and 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 tobacco 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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