



MAYOR JOSEPH P. GANIM
BRIDGEPORT, CT

For Immediate Release

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-PRESS RELEASE-

MAYOR GANIM, BOND CELEBRATE STATUTE BANNING SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO YOUTH

<https://www.facebook.com/BridgeportCT/videos/2601763403213010/>

BRIDGEPORT, CT – Today, Mayor Ganim joined Department of Health and Social Services Director Maritza Bond and other city officials to announce the prohibition of tobacco and vaping products to individuals under age 21—on both a local and, effective today, state level as well.

Mayor Ganim cited Bridgeport as one of the first in the State to say “No” to both the sale of tobacco to youth and vaping products. By state officials introducing Tobacco 21 and aligning with the City’s victory in public health, Mayor Ganim believes “Through this, today, the State of Connecticut has stepped up big time.”



As mentioned by Director Bond, the CDC has logged over 530 cases of lung illnesses related to vaping products. Thirteen of those cases were in Connecticut, seven in Fairfield County. Effecting individuals from ages ranging from 15-50, Bond called the details “catastrophic” and “hitting all ages and all socio-economic groups.” She also commented, “The amendment of this tobacco ordinance was a priority for us as a Health Department because as a public health agent, we have the duty to protect our residents from this devastating epidemic that we are now facing in our country, in our states and in our cities.”

The Bridgeport Health Department will enforce Statute Public Act #19-13 and Bridgeport Ordinance Section 8.90.050 through unannounced compliance checks. Business owners found not in compliance will be fined \$150.

Mayor Ganim, City Council and the Department of Health and Social Services plan to fully commit to youth education and advocacy of prohibiting all vaping products.

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Joseph P. Ganim
Mayor

City of Bridgeport
Department of Health & Social Services
Environmental Health

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Maritza Bond, MPH
Director of Health
Albertina Baptista, MPH
Deputy Director of Health

September 20, 2019

Dear Local Business Owner:

Re: Tobacco 21

This letter is to inform you about the Tobacco 21 state legislation and Bridgeport Ordinance Section 8.90.050 that increase the legal age to sell tobacco products from 18 to 21 effective October 1, 2019. Below you will find **Bridgeport Ordinance Section 8.90.050 and the State Statute Public Act # 19-13: An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products to Persons under 21.**

- (a) No retailer shall distribute any tobacco product to any person under twenty-one (21) years of age.
- (b) Sellers and their employees must verify the age of the purchaser by means of a government-issued photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth demonstrating that purchaser is twenty-one (21) years of age or older.
- (c) Verification is required for any person who appears to be under the age of thirty (30).
- (d) Any person under the age of 21, who fraudulently give out the age proof to buy tobacco products will be fined \$50 for the first offense, and \$100 for each subsequent offense.
- (e) Signage and Enforcement:

At each point of sale, there should be a display of **"THE SALE OF TOBACCO OR NICOTINE PRODUCTS OR DEVICES TO PERSONS UNDER 21 IS PROHIBITED"** Signage shall be in multiple languages needed to be consistent with other facility postings.

- (i) The age of selling, giving or delivery of tobacco products to a person under 21 years is prohibited by law.
- (ii) The use of false identification by under 21 years of age is prohibited.
- (iii) The penalties and fines for violating the purchase laws.
- (e) Vending Machines: No vending machines must be placed in an area, facility, or business where can be assessible by under the 21 year old.
- (f) Selling or distributing tobacco products in any place that doesn't have a sign posted in conspicuous place is prohibited by law and punishable.
- (g) This Section shall be enforced by the Bridgeport Health Department and from time to time there will be unannounced compliance checks. Unannounced follow-up compliance check(s) of all non-compliant tobacco retailers are required within three months of any violation.

Please be advised that the new ordinance will be enforced, and any business owner found not in compliance will be fined \$150.

Thanking you in advance for your support in preventing the sale of tobacco or nicotine products or devices to persons under 21.

Sincerely Yours,

Maritza Bond, MPH
Director of Health and Social Services