

Gaston County Tobacco Rule



The Rule will make the following places tobacco-free:

- **Local government buildings, local government grounds, local government vehicles, local government parks and indoor public places.**

Definitions

- Tobacco products: Cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco and electronic cigarettes.
- Indoor public places: Any enclosed area to which the public is invited or which the public is permitted. Examples would include: movie theaters, grocery stores, yoga studios etc. A private residence is not a public place.
- Unit of local government: Gaston County as well as any municipalities within Gaston County.

Exclusions:

- Property owned, leased, or maintained by the State of North Carolina.
- Public streets and sidewalks within Gaston County.

Enforcement

- Using a “soft launch” approach – effective date is July 1, 2020.
- Self-enforcement.
- Signage.
- Education, technical assistance and cessation support will be provided by community education partners.
- Law enforcement:
 - After verbal or written notice is given, failure to cease smoking or using tobacco products may constitute an infraction punishable by a fine of no more than fifty dollars (\$50.00). A citation may be issued by a sworn law enforcement officer. Conviction of an infraction under this section has no consequence other than payment of a penalty, and no court costs may be assessed.

Implementation thus far:

- Bessemer City 2016.
- Cherryville 2017.