

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOSPITAL REFORM

**MINISTERIAL CIRCULAR N°020 / MSPRH of May 23, 2007,
concerning the implementation of Executive Decree N° 01-285 of
September 24, 2001, determining public places where the use of
tobacco is prohibited, and the terms for the implementation of this
ban**

Distribution:

To the Ladies and Gentlemen:

- Directors of Health and Population of Willaya Districts
(execution, follow-up, notification and communication)
- Directors General of University Hospital Centers
(execution)
- Directors of Specialized Hospital Establishments
(execution)
- Directors of Health Departments
(execution)
- Director General of the National Institute of Public Health
(execution)
- Director General of the Pasteur Institute of Algeria
(execution)
- Director General of the National Blood Agency
(execution)
- Director General of the National Laboratory for the control of
Pharmaceutical Products
(execution)
- Director General of the National School of Public Health
(execution)
- Director General of the National Pedagogical Institute of Paramedical
Training
(execution)
- Directors of schools of paramedical training
(execution)
- Managers of semi-public and private health care establishments
(execution)

At present the world is rising up against the scourge of cigarette smoke that pollutes our environment. Tobacco use is an addiction that constitutes a key risk factor for the development of numerous pathologies.

Unfortunately, we observe with regret that in health care settings, personnel continue to smoke, not only despite their knowledge of the harmful effects of tobacco, but also in spite of the regulations in force.

A survey conducted at the Mustapha University Hospital Center (CHU) and the Bab El Oued University Hospital Center (CHU) shows that 44% of our physicians and 29 % of our paramedicals smoke.

Health care professionals engaged in tobacco control efforts should become totally committed and play an essential role, since they do have the obligation to set an example.

Executive Decree N° 01-285 of September 24, 2001, “determines public places where the use of tobacco is prohibited, and the terms for the implementation of this ban.” Health care establishments appear on the list of establishments for which the prohibition is absolute.

In particular:

- Article 4 of this Decree sets forth the specific provisions for smoking tobacco; “public places where the use of smoking tobacco is prohibited are in principle all enclosed or covered spaces intended for common use; in particular, these places are:
 1. Institutions for training and instruction;
 2. Health care establishments
 3. Venues where sporting, cultural, scientific, economic and recreational events take place.
 4. Workplaces for groups of workers (entrance areas, reception areas, eating areas, meeting rooms, health care and medical-sanitary facilities)
 5. Public transportation by road, rail, sea and air
 6. Commercial establishments where food and drink are consumed
 7. Waiting rooms and waiting areas
- Article 5 calls for making smoking areas available except in the places noted in Article 3, which are academic institutions and facilities for minors, as well as points 1 to 3 of Article 4
- Articles 8, 9 and 10 are concerned with the administrative and disciplinary sanctions incurred for failure to comply with these rules, and which must appear in the internal regulations of the establishments in question.
- Article 11 calls for informational, educational and communication activities.”

Instruction N° 001/MSP/Min of March 10, 2002, Instruction N° 1437/MSPRH/DP of June 11, 2005, issued for the implementation of the provisions of the Executive Decree cited above are without effect.

Moreover, on **March 12, 2006**, **Algeria ratified the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control of the WHO** adopted in Geneva on March 31, 2003, on the basis of **Presidential Decree n° 06-120 of March 12, 2006**.

Considering that it has to do with a major objective for the protection and promotion of health, I hope that all measures will be taken to make all of our health care facilities into TOBACCO FREE SPACES.

“**Tobacco Free Spaces**” is the theme highlighted by the WHO to celebrate May 31, 2007, World No Tobacco Day.

This provides you with the occasion, if this is not already being done at certain hospitals, to move forward at your institution to set up a committee that will be composed of representatives of medical, paramedical and administrative staff, and that will be under the direct responsibility of the director of each institution.

This tobacco control committee will be entrusted with drawing up a strategy for the implementation of the various instructions.

To such end, ladies and gentlemen directors, I ask that you take forthwith measures to prohibit the use of tobacco at your health care institutions, and to undertake all actions to inform and notify all medical, paramedical and administrative staff, and to adopt the appropriate signs geared towards a total suppression of tobacco at health care institutions. At the entrance to all health care buildings, and inside all facilities, the prohibition of smoking is to be exhibited in a way that is legible, prominent, and intelligible.

I must particularly insist on the implementation of the existing regulatory provision in its entirety, and on the sanctions indicated for cases of non-compliance.

Naturally you will also inform users of these new measures.

(Executive Decree N° 01-285 of September 24, 2001, determining public places where the use of tobacco is prohibited, and the terms for the implementation of this ban)

This operation of informing and notification must commence at once, and be pursued until September 13, 2007 (1st day of Ramadan). On that date, all health care facilities are to be free of tobacco.

Control mechanisms will be instituted initially for preparing, and subsequently actually putting into practice, tobacco-free health care facilities.

An initial evaluation should be carried out no later than May 31, 2007, the date for World No Tobacco Day. These evaluations should be based on the state of progress of the

implementation of this tobacco-free operation, difficulties encountered, and to inform me of your engagement in this tobacco control effort at your institution.

I am counting on your involvement, and on the compulsory nature of this undertaking which shall serve as the engine making it possible to establish a common working area with other sectors.