

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC
HEALTH AND HOSPITAL
REFORM

وزارة الصحة و السكان و إصلاح المستشفيات

مديرية الوقاية

Directions for Prevention
N° 1035 /MSPRH/DP.

ALGIERS, JUNE 2, 2007

True Copy

Instruction N°1035/DP/MSPRH of June 2, 2007, concerning the implementation of Executive Decree No. 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, pursuant to Ministerial Circular 020 of May 23, 2007.

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 Public Hospital Establishments (**Execution**)
- Directors of Public Health Establishments in the Vicinity (**Execution**)

Tobacco use is a deeply rooted addiction encouraged by the [tobacco] industry and that affects more than one billion consumers, not counting the people around them who, as proven today by scientific studies, are not spared from the dangers of tobacco smoke.

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, as well as Presidential Decree n° 06-120 of December 12, 2006, concerning the ratification of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control of the WHO, adopted in Geneva on May 21, 2003, call for the implementation of strategies to fight against the propagation of the epidemic of tobacco use which is a global problem with severe and insidious consequences for public health.

The aim of the Framework Convention is to protect present and future generations from the devastating effects of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke by putting into effect measures summed up as follows:

- Measures seeking to reduce supply, such as through contraband, sale to minors and sale by minors.

- Measures seeking to reduce the demand for tobacco, such as protection against exposure to tobacco smoke, regulation of the composition of tobacco products, regulation of information to be communicated concerning tobacco products, packaging and labeling, education, communication, training and raising public awareness, advertising for tobacco, measures seeking to reduce addiction-based demand for tobacco, and quitting smoking.

Accordingly, only spaces that are 100 % smoke-free effectively protect people's health from the dangers of exposure to second-hand smoke.

It is for the sake of all of these advantages of good health we derive from these tobacco-free spaces that our health facilities must provide an example, pursuant to the regulations cited above and to Ministerial Circular N° 020 of May 23, 2007, which determines the application of the ban on smoking inside health facilities as of September 1, 2007.

Tobacco-free health facilities are the responsibility of the primary administrator of such facilities, to promote the positive consequences for the health of personnel, patients and users, as well as for the image the institution presents of itself, in accordance with the regulations in force and the measures recommended by the World Health Organization.

In order to enable you to make your facilities tobacco free between now and September 1, 2007, I ask that you quickly undertake the following actions that fall under heading of the strategy for "tobacco-free facilities."

1/ A written undertaking by the manager of health of the DSP, the CHU, the EHS, of the Public Hospital Establishments and Public Health Establishments in the Vicinity, to make the facilities under their supervision into 100 % tobacco-free spaces. A copy of this undertaking is to be sent to the Minister of Public Health and Hospital Reform.

2/ Setting up a tobacco control committee that will define strategy and supervise implementation within the facility: this committee may be an already-existing working group to which it would be necessary to assign the tasks of tobacco control. It is to be made up of physicians, paramedics, administrators and security personnel, who will be entrusted with the mission of implementing the aforementioned Decree.

3/ Communication: the personnel of the health facility, as well as patients and visitors, are to be informed of these new measures.

- Adoption of appropriate signs indicating that smoking is prohibited throughout the premises, in hallways, intake areas, and eating areas (with self-adhesive posters), at the entrance of each building, as well as at the entrance to the facility by a prominently visible and legible panel stating the prohibition of smoking in both languages (Arabic and French).
- Suppression of any encouragement to use tobacco: removal of ashtrays and seeing to it that a tub of sand is placed outside the facility to extinguish cigarettes, with appropriate signs showing the prohibition of smoking inside the facility.
- Prohibition of the sale of tobacco inside hospitals.
- Periodic renewal of communication campaigns: informing staff via memos stating the regulations in force, along with any documents deemed relevant. Patients are to be informed of the hospital's tobacco-free policy. Visitors, in turn, are to be informed by prominent signs, reminders by the appropriate staff (security), and through textual sources.

4/ Training of staff on dealing with smokers.

5/ Allowance for assistance in quitting.

I request that you inform me of the state of progress in the implementation of the tobacco control policy, and of any difficulties encountered.

Supervision visits will take place and will address the above-mentioned points 1 to 3. Points 4 and 5 shall be the subject of training programs.

The Director of Prevention