

**The Ministry of Health**

Vientiane Capital

Date: 21 March 2007

**Decision of the Ministry of Health**

To the Chiefs of cabinets, Directors, institutes, health centers, hospitals, schools, factories, Vientiane Capital Health Department, Vientiane Provincial Hospital, offices, district health units, and all health units across the country

Re. **Implementation of Smoke Free Policy in Health Sectors**

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- Pursuant to: the law on hygiene and disease prevention and health promotion No. 01/National Assembly dated 10 April 2001.
- Pursuant to: the Prime Minister's decision on the implementation and function of the Ministry of Health No. 020/PM on 19 March 1999.
- Pursuant to: the Tobacco Control Policy in the Lao P.D.R. dated 27 March 2001.
- Pursuant to Article 8 of the World Health Organization on Tobacco Control Convention.

**The Ministry of Health Decides:**

1. To ensure that all sectors, including all public offices, departments, institutions, centers, hospitals, schools, factories, and health departments at all administration levels raise awareness of the harmfulness of smoking among their employees entirely.
2. To ensure that the following workplaces such as at ministries, departments, centers, institutions, hospitals, factories, health units, offices, guest rooms, meeting rooms, lobbies, patient rooms, restrooms, and other rooms at every level of the health sectors that are under their jurisdiction, must establish "**Smoke Free Zones.**" And at the same time, it is necessary that these sectors designate smoking-permitted areas outside their office buildings or agencies with a "**Smoking Area**" sign as well as having ashtray containers for cigarette butts and a reasonable air ventilation system. However, this "Smoking Area" must be located completely separate from the "**Smoke-Free Zone Areas.**"

3. Post “**No Smoking**” signs or other warning posters on the negative impacts of smoking in the areas specified on Item 2 mentioned above.
4. The officials of the health sectors at all levels must take the leading role and be role models in participating in the “World No Tobacco Day,” and encourage their colleagues in their offices and organizations, families, and friends to reduce and quit smoking.
5. The officials of the health sectors at all levels must taking the leading role in coordination in disseminating information and raising awareness of the negative impacts of smoking among the general public as a way of implementing the “Smoke Free Zone” policy as stated in Item 2 mentioned above.
6. All offices, departments, institutions, centers, hospitals, schools, factories, Vientiane Capital Health Department, Provincial Health Department, District Health Bureau, and Health Units must stringently implement the “Smoke Free Zone” policy.
7. Staff adherence to or violation of this decision will be considered based on the nature of the behavior; therefore, the staff who follow this regulation and become a role model to peers in quitting smoking will receive recognition as appropriate. On the other hand, those who still have not followed this regulation shall receive feedback or criticism, warnings and will be evaluated negatively in job performance, depending on the extent of the violation.
8. Each organization has to report progress in each phase of the implementation of this decision to the Ministry of Health. The Department of Hygiene and Disease Prevention shall be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the implementation of this decision. All health sectors and sections at all levels must consider including this decision as one of their priorities and strategies.
9. This decision is entered into force from the day that it is signed.

Ministry of Health

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Ponemek Dalaloy