



Contact us: 208-334-0642

ID Tobacco Project Website: [healthandwelfare.idaho.gov](http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov)  
Select the "medical" menu and then "Idaho Tobacco Permits"

## 2020 FACTS AND STATS

**What was the Compliance Grade after last month's state tobacco inspections?**

**Grade **A+** for Calendar Year 2020**

According to Idaho Code 39-5701, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare must inspect each Permitted Retailer that sells tobacco and electronic smoking devices to ensure that it does not sell these products to minors.

How well did these Permitted Retailers comply with the law in calendar year 2020?

- 1884 Permitted Retailers were inspected.\*
- 64 Permitted Retailers sold to the inspecting minor.
- The compliance rate for calendar year 2020:

**96.60%  
SUPER!**

\*Non-minor Exempt Inspections where purchase attempts were made.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO A NEW YEAR!

### Working Together to Prevent the Sale!

Last year came with unexpected challenges that seem to impact almost every facet of our daily lives with the emergence of the Coronavirus. But even with the challenges of 2020, we continue to persevere. For most of us, we are ready to move forward into 2021 with a fresh start. And as we move forward into 2021, the Idaho's Department of Health and Welfare's commitment to the health and well-being of all Idahoans remains unchanged.

We anticipate great things to come for 2021 and look forward to continuing our great partnership with Idaho Tobacco Retailers as we strive to prevent the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to minors. Each day, as thousands of minors try their first cigarette or electronic smoking device, many of these minors become daily smokers, addicted before they are old enough to take risks seriously. Refusing the sale of tobacco to a minor is your way of preventing this serious problem.

[Statistics](#) show that more than half of all youth smokers purchase their cigarettes and electronic smoking devices from retailers or other minors. Some youth experience tobacco dependence within a day of their first inhalation. In addition, of those youth who start smoking before the age of 18, 5.6 million will die early from a smoking-related illness. That is 1 of every 13 Americans aged 17 years or younger who are alive today but will suffer illness and early death due to their start of tobacco use. Youth use of tobacco products, in any form, is simply unsafe. With your help, minors will not be able to purchase tobacco products and begin the cycle of dependence that causes such harm to their health, including early death.

### Being a Well-Trained Partner

As we begin a new year, here are some reminders you and your employees can do to remain a well-trained partner with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in our efforts to prevent the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to Idaho's youth:

## Training Suggestions:

- Conduct an annual review of federal, state, and local laws focusing on any changes to the previous year's laws and requirements. (See [Idaho Code 39-5701](#) latest update effective July 1, 2020 that now includes Electronic Smoking Devices.)
- Review company policies on youth access to tobacco and electronic smoking devices and ensure employees understand company penalties, as well as state and federal penalties for selling to a minor.
- Ensure employees understand which tobacco and electronic smoking device products and paraphernalia are being sold at your company (See [Idaho Code 39-5701](#) for a list of covered items.)
- Have a defined cut-off age by which all customers must be carded before tobacco and electronic smoking devices are sold to them. It is recommended that all customers under 30 show their ID. **With customers potentially wearing face masks, ensuring that your clerks check ID before approving a sale is more important than ever.**
- Practice identifying the age of the customer using the built-in ID age cues provided. There is no need to calculate a customer's age using mental math. Instead, utilize the states ID formatting (underage IDs are vertical), color-coding (underage IDs have green and red coloring around the information box,) and wording (underage IDs have the words "Under 18" or "Under 21" in the same color as the information box border) to verify age.
- Provide practice techniques for handling recurring situations. For example: asking for ID, when and how to ask for a second ID, how to decline a sale, recognizing a potential third-party sale, resisting customer pressure, handling customer's abusive conduct.
- Provide instructions on when and how to seek assistance from another clerk or store manager.
- Emphasize that tobacco and electronic smoking device sales are not required, and that no penalty will be imposed for refusing a sale to anyone.
- Provide a written test to establish employee's knowledge of the laws and company policies.
- Have each employee sign the Employee Training Form. A copy is sent to each retailer with their tobacco permit and is part of the Idaho Administrative Code.
- Have company policies in writing and provide a copy to each new employee. Post the company policies in the breakroom or staff only area. Be able to provide a copy to any employee who asks for one.



Need information on the Idaho tobacco law, training and point-of-sale resources, information about what IDs look like, a helpful quiz and game to practice when to refuse the sale of tobacco to a customer, and many other resources tailored to Idaho Tobacco Retailers? Check out our website designed just for Idaho Tobacco Retailers: [Preventthesale.com/Idaho](https://Preventthesale.com/Idaho)



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**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES**