



Contact IDHW's Idaho Tobacco Project at: 877-641-4468  
ID Tobacco Project Website: <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/providers>\*  
\*Scroll down to the topic "Retailers" then select "Idaho Tobacco Project."

Volume 25, Issue 6  
June 2026

## Facts and Stats MAY 2026

**What was the Compliance Grade for this month's state tobacco and electronic smoking device inspections?**

**Grade A**

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 customers under the age of 21.

How well did these Permitted Retailers comply with the law for this month?

- **176** Permitted Retailers were inspected.\*
- **9** Permitted Retailers sold to the underage inspector.

The **May 2026** compliance rate was:

**94.89% - Keep It Up!**

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

## School's Out: Summer Compliance Starts Now

### School's Out: More Youth, More Opportunities to Stay Compliant

Summer often brings changes to a retailer's daily routine. School is out, community events increase, and more young people are spending time in stores throughout the day. It can also mean more daytime traffic, more group shopping, and more chances for staff to feel rushed at the register. For retailers, that means more opportunities to put strong compliance habits into practice.

Many illegal sales happen during busy periods when employees are distracted, rushed, or unfamiliar with store procedures. Summer can also bring seasonal employees, schedule changes, and increased customer traffic. These factors can make it easier for mistakes to occur if compliance expectations are not consistently reinforced.

A few simple reminders can help stores stay on track:

- Check ID for anyone who appears under **30**.
- Take time to verify the birthdate and expiration date.
- Refuse sales when valid identification is not provided.
- Encourage employees to ask questions if they are unsure.

Summer is also a good time to revisit store policies and make sure all employees understand Idaho's tobacco and electronic smoking device laws. Even a brief refresher can help reinforce expectations and support consistent decision-making.

### Bottom Line

School may be out for the summer, but compliance remains a year-round responsibility. Strong habits, clear expectations, and consistent ID checks help prevent illegal sales and keep youth safe. A few extra seconds at the register can protect your staff, your store, and Idaho youth.

## Quick Tips:

### Summer Staffing Season Is Here

Summer often brings new employees and schedule changes.

Before employees begin selling tobacco or electronic smoking devices, make sure they understand:

- Idaho's minimum age law
- When ID must be checked
- How to refuse a sale
- Who to ask when questions arise

A short refresher now can help prevent mistakes later.

### Damaged IDs Should Be Checked Carefully

An ID that is cracked, peeling, altered, or difficult to read may not be valid for age verification.

If important information cannot be clearly confirmed:

- Request another form of identification
- Ask a supervisor for assistance
- Refuse the sale if age cannot be verified

Taking a few extra seconds can help prevent an illegal sale.

## Monthly Health Highlight:

### Nicotine and the Developing Teen Brain

According to the CDC, the brain continues developing into the mid-20s. Nicotine exposure during adolescence can affect areas of the brain responsible for attention, learning, memory, and impulse control.

Because young people are especially vulnerable to nicotine addiction, preventing early access remains an important public health goal.

Retailers play an important role by consistently checking ID and refusing sales to anyone under 21.

**Source:** [CDC - Quick Facts on the Risks of E-cigarettes for Kids, Teens, and Young Adults](#)

## Prevent-The-Sale!

Idaho Tobacco Retailers have two trusted resources to support compliance:

- **Idaho Tobacco Project Site:** [healthandwelfare.idaho.gov](http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov)
- **Interactive Training & Resources:** [PreventTheSale.com/Idaho](http://PreventTheSale.com/Idaho)

There you'll find:

- Free training modules
- Sample ID examples
- Refresher resources
- Downloadable signage

Use these tools to support your staff — and stay ready for every sale and every inspection.



Contact IDHW's Idaho Tobacco Project at: 877-641-4468

Volume 25, Issue 6  
June 2026

ID Tobacco Project Website: [https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/providers\\*](https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/providers*)

\*Scroll down to the topic "Retailers" then select "Idaho Tobacco Project."

### What's inside?

- Facts & Stats
- School's Out: More Youth, More Opportunities to Stay Compliant
- Quick Tips: Summer Staffing Season Is Here
- Quick Tips: Damaged IDs Should Be Checked Carefully
- Monthly Health Highlight
- Prevent-The-Sale Resources

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEE**