



## A Newsletter for Idaho Tobacco Retailers Sponsored by Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

Volume 18, Issue 4  
April 2019

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"

### 2019 Facts and Stats

#### Grade "A" for March

According to Idaho Code 39-5701, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare must inspect each business that sells tobacco to ensure that it does not sell tobacco to minors. In March:

- 529 Vendors were inspected.\*
- 27 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- The compliance rate for the month was 94.9%

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

#### Prevent the Sale Website

[Preventthesale.com/  
Idaho](http://Preventthesale.com/Idaho)

Look for our new game, additional training and point-of-sale resources for retailers, and updated ID information!

## Tobacco Prevention Matters

As Idaho's tobacco retailers, **YOU** are on the front lines of preventing minors' access to tobacco. In the day to day grind that comes with running a retail store, it can be easy to forget how important it is to refuse the sale of tobacco to a minor. But, being a committed retailer with strong policies, having quality employee training, and being dedicated to following the law, means:

- One less minor will have access to tobacco.
- YOU won't be the "go to" source of tobacco for our youth.
- YOU will have a direct impact in that child's long-term health and wellbeing.

According to the Centers for Disease Control:

- Tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable disease, disability, and death in the United States.
- Smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths each year in the U.S. That is nearly one in every five deaths.
- Tobacco use causes long term health damage and increased risk:
  - For coronary heart disease by 2 to 4 times
  - For stroke by 2 to 4 times
  - Of developing lung cancer by 25 times
- Tobacco use causes diminished overall health, increased absenteeism from work, and increased health care utilization and cost.

But are these health concerns just for adult tobacco users? No! It starts with our youth!

- About 4.7 million middle and high school students use at least one tobacco product, including e-cigarettes.
- Every day, about 2000 U.S. youth under 18 years smoke their first cigarettes.

While these statistics are alarming, the good news is that youth who never use tobacco will likely never start as most people start using tobacco before they finish high school. So, by working together, we can ensure that the youth living throughout our state, are protected from the ravages of tobacco use.

Idaho Tobacco Retailers can be proud of their commitment in this area. Our state inspection compliance statistics consistently show that Idaho Tobacco Retailers do a great job in refusing the sale of tobacco to minors. You can keep track of these compliance statistics in the *Facts and Stats* portion of this newsletter each month.

Thank you for being committed to Idaho's youth and to partnering with the state in the effort to keep tobacco out of the hands of our youth!

## Are You Prepared for Compliance Inspections?

Each year tobacco inspections are completed according to the requirements of Idaho Code 39-5701. This means that each retailer can expect a tobacco compliance inspection at least one time per year. Additional inspections are calculated based upon the number of violations that occurred in the previous calendar year. All inspections are unannounced and additional inspections are randomly selected from the pool of permitted retailers. Its good to anticipate at least 2 state inspections at each tobacco retail location per year. In addition, the FDA conducts their own inspections under federal law.

What does all this mean for an Idaho Tobacco Retailer? That Idaho Tobacco Retailers and their employees should **always be prepared** for a tobacco compliance check either from the state or the FDA. Inspections will occur throughout the year.

Remember that if a retailer sells tobacco to a state inspecting minor, the clerk will be cited on the spot and the retailer will be notified by mail of the violation. If the clerk refuses to sell tobacco to the state inspecting minor, the minor leaves the store without further incident and the retailer will be notified by mail of a successful state inspection. So, don't forget to:

- Use your training and stay alert with each customer.
- Always check the ID of any customer who wishes to purchase tobacco.
- Skip the math! Don't try to figure out the customers age by subtracting their birthday from the current date. That's just too hard and time consuming! Every ID has visual and posted information as to the age of the ID holder. No math needed!
  - Idaho IDs are either oriented: Portrait (up and down) or Landscape (Left to Right).
    - If the ID is Portrait, the customer is either under 18 **OR** between the age of 18 and 21.
    - If the ID is Landscape, the customer is over 21.
  - Portrait IDs will have a "UNDER 18 UNTIL" or a "UNDER 21 UNTIL" date posted on the ID.
  - Portrait IDs are also color coded with either a Green bordered box or Red bordered box to the right of the photo. So, remember these catchy phrases:
    - IF ITS GREEN, STOP THE TEEN (The teen is under 18 and cannot buy tobacco or alcohol)
    - IF ITS RED, USE YOUR HEAD (The teen is over 18, but under 21, so they can buy tobacco, but not alcohol.)

Being prepared will ease the pressure and ensure that each day goes smoothly as you interact with customers wishing to purchase tobacco. You never know – the next customer you meet could be an inspecting minor!



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### What's inside?

- Tobacco Prevention Matters
- Are you Prepared for Compliance Inspections

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES**