

## **Policy 1210 - Tobacco Use**

Barton Community College is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for its students, employees, visitors, and contractors.

The President or his/her designee is authorized to designate the areas of the campus that tobacco use is permitted. Smoking and all other forms of tobacco use is prohibited in College buildings, facilities, and vehicles.

For the purpose of this policy, tobacco is defined as all tobacco-derived or containing products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes (clove, bidis, kreteks), electronic cigarettes, cigars and cigarillos, hookah-smoked products, and oral tobacco (spit and spitless, smokeless, chew, snuff).

Tobacco use is allowed outside and at least twenty (20) feet from any building entrance.

(Revised and approved by the President on )

## E-cigarette rational

Electronic cigarettes are commonly called e-cigarettes and are a type of electronic nicotine delivery system. Although the expectation is that the FDA will regulate e-cigarettes in a similar manner as a typical cigarette, e-cigarettes currently are unregulated.

The recommendation is to include e-cigarettes in our tobacco use policy and restrict their use to follow other tobacco products. Reasons for including e-cigarettes in the policy include:

- Currently our health insurance considers e-cigarette use to be the same as any other tobacco use.
- E-cigarettes are not an FDA-approved tobacco cessation device.
- E-cigarettes contain nicotine and detectable levels of known carcinogens and toxic chemicals.
- Since they are currently not regulated, they are manufactured using inconsistent or non-existent quality control processes.
- Since the manufacturing of e-cigarettes is not currently regulated, the ingredients manufacturers use cannot be verified or tested consistently. The effects of the cigarettes or the vapor emitted from them are unknown at this time. This may or may not pose a health risk to those coming in contact with the vapor emitted from these devices.
- Since e-cigarettes look very similar to a regular cigarette, enforcement of the current tobacco policy becomes very difficult if e-cigarettes are not included.
- The concern and general appearance of:
  - our employees “smoking” these devices at their workstations, in their offices, in meetings, etc.
  - Student “smoking” these devices while in class.
  - General public “smoking” these devices in college buildings.
- Kansas Association of School Boards has recommended a policy which prohibits the use of e-cigarettes in school facilities/vehicles.
- FDA’s proposed regulations will classify e-cigarettes along with various other products the same as any other tobacco product. The FDA expects to finalize their regulation before the end of the year.

# CLEARING THE AIR



DALE HOGG Great Bend Tribune

The Barton County Courthouse is among the county buildings in which the use of e-cigarettes is now banned. There will still be designated smoking areas outside county buildings, even after the County Commission voted Monday to ban the use of e-cigarettes from county buildings.

## New policy bans e-cigarette from all county buildings

BY DALE HOGG

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As of Monday, not only will it be illegal to light up in county buildings, but the use of electronic cigarettes will also be banned.

“The e-cigarettes have an emission of nicotine that is unmeasured that

people can ingest,” said Barton County Health Director Shelly Schneider. The use of such cigarette substitutes in the Health Department and the potential impact on pregnant women and children sparked the discussion.

“It is just the same in our eyes as

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regular cigarettes,” Schneider said. There are, she said, just too many unknowns about the unregulated liquid nicotine used in the devices.

County vehicles are also included in the ban.

Barton County had three resolutions, the earliest dating back to 1991, dealing with clean air and the use of tobacco products. The action Monday combined under one resolution all the earlier ones, as well as extended the prohibition to tobacco substitutes, generally e-cigarettes.

The use of the phrase “tobacco substitutes” was used to cover future products that may need to be prohibited. “We were trying to be forward thinking,” Schneider said.

Violations of the resolution will be treated as a class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine, but there will likely be few prosecutions, County Administrator Richard Boeckman said. None the less, the new rules will give county officials leverage if they have someone creating a nuisance.

County Health Educator Janel Rose said the new rule does not ban nicotine patches and other approved smoking cessation products.

In addition, the no-smoking zone around the Health Department was extended to 20 feet. The distance for other county buildings is 10 feet and this will remain the same.

Often, they have windows open or visitors have to walk through the current smoking area to enter the Health Department. “At times it is an issue,” Rose said.