



# Did You Know?

January 2019

**New Year & New Regulations:** In a season full of personal resolutions, it is important to reflect on the changes set in motions by our government. Every day more and more research is released on alcohol and substance abuse, many times leading to new regulations. Here's what you need to know regarding the coming changes.

## What You Should Know:

- The Public Health Protection Act of 2018 regulates and **prohibits smoking tobacco products and the use of electronic cigarettes in a motor vehicle with the presence of a child**. It is also deemed unlawful to smoke tobacco or use an e-cigarette containing nicotine in an area adjacent to or inside a bus shelter. "Smoke Free" or "No Smoking" signage will be posted to provide the public with notice of the newly instated prohibition. If found in violation of either law, a penalty up to \$150 can be expected. These regulations are additional measures already in place to protect the public against the negative effects of secondhand smoke.
- Under the Public Health Protection Act of 2018, **Erie County will also ban the sale of all tobacco products in pharmacies and health stores**. This prohibition comes as a tool to promote and educate the public on the dangers attributed to smoking and second hand smoke. A maximum penalty of \$2,000 has been established for each subsequent violation.
- The FDA is moving forward with policies to **ban the sales of most flavored e-cigarettes and vapes in convenience stores** across the country. Fruit flavored products will have restricted sales only in specialty tobacco and vape shops. The FDA is also planning to restrict online sales by enforcing age verification guidelines in the purchasing process.
- The Raise the Age Legislation **advances the age of responsibility to 18 years old**. This legislation allows 16 and 17 year olds that would have been prosecuted as an adult under the prior law the opportunity to attend specialized juvenile detention facilities and receive evidence-based treatment. The first stage of this legislation for NYS took effect on October 1, 2018 protecting minors of the age of 16. The Second stage will take effect for 17 year olds on the same date in 2019.
- The Erie County Social Host Law now holds adults accountable for allowing **underage drinking or substance use**, or for failing to bring the harmful activity to a stop once noticing it. The law was amended this year to apply to other drugs besides alcohol, including heroin, fentanyl and other opioids, anabolic steroids, cocaine and marijuana. Current penalties include fines ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 and up to a year in jail.

## What You Can Do:

- Smoking tobacco and the use of e-cigarettes or vaping devices can induce a myriad of health risks, such as lung cancer and use disorders. With that sentiment in mind, abstaining from all harmful activity can protect your health and keep you in compliance with the new regulations.
- Always act responsibly regardless of age. Laws and regulations are put in place for the betterment of the community as a whole. Fortunately prosecuted youth will now receive fit justice along with the services they need to rehabilitate and re-integrate themselves into their communities.
- Never allow underage drinking or teen substance use. If you suspect that teen substance use is occurring, you have a legal obligation to put a stop to the situation.

**HAPPY★NEW★YEAR**

Information obtained from: [www.erie.gov](http://www.erie.gov); <https://www.fda.gov>; <https://www.ny.gov>

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The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Inc., publishes Did You Know, a regular update about alcohol & other drugs - - America's #1 public health problem. ECCPASA • 1625 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216 • 716-831-2298 • [www.eccpasa.org](http://www.eccpasa.org)