

Smoke-free FAQs

What is the new smoke-free initiative?

As of April 16, 2012, Boston University Medical Campus (BUMC) and Boston Medical Center (BMC) will become completely smoke-free, inside and out. That means staff, contract workers, students, volunteers, patients and families, and visitors will be asked to refrain from smoking (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, pipes or other lighted smoking devices) on all property owned and /or leased by BMC/BUMC.

Why is BUMC becoming smoke-free?

As an academic medical center, we are committed to finding ways to treat and prevent cancer and related diseases. Since smoking has been identified as a major preventable cause of disease and cancer death in this country, it makes sense for the Medical Campus to set an example of wellness and prevention for our faculty, staff, students and the community. BUMC and BMC also join the other Boston hospitals and campuses who have committed to going smoke free by April 16, 2012.

To whom does the initiative apply?

All faculty, staff, students, patients, visitors, volunteers and vendors; anyone who ventures on to BMC/BUMC property.

Are there exceptions for patients and visitors?

No. It applies to everyone on BMC/BUMC property.

What does this mean for BU employees?

Beginning April 16, 2012, all faculty and staff will be asked to refrain from using smoking products (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, pipes or other lighted smoking devices) on all property owned and/or leased by BU and BMC. Employees who violate this policy could be subject to disciplinary action.

How does this new smoking initiative differ from previous ones?

Previously, smoking was prohibited in all hospital and medical campus buildings. Now, smoking will be prohibited anywhere on BMC/BUMC-owned property.

Do I have to quit?

No. We have no intention of forcing anyone to stop smoking.

If I want to quit smoking, where can I go for help?

BU offers a smoking cessation program called QuitNet. Read more about it here: <http://www.bu.edu/hr/benefits/health-wellness/quitnet/>

There are also many organizations with great tips on quitting smoking. You can find them here: http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/quit_smoking/how_to_quit/index.htm

The Faculty/Staff Assistance Office is also a helpful tool:

<http://www.bu.edu/hr/benefits/health-wellness/facultystaff-assistance-office/>

Where can I go if I want to smoke?

Those wishing to smoke must do so off of BMC/BUMC property. Review the campus map here [add link to map].

How will this be enforced?

BUMC and BMC employees, including Public Safety, will play a necessary role in maintaining compliance with the policy. Faculty and staff may assist with informing smokers, when comfortable, that the Medical Campus and hospital now are smoke free. New employees will be informed of this during each New Employees Orientation Session. Keep in mind that Public Safety responds to many calls for service and may not be readily available for enforcement, which is why your assistance is needed.

What happens if someone is smoking on campus?

Public Safety officers will approach the individual, explain the initiative and advise him or her to leave the property.

What do I say if I see a faculty or staff member smoking?

Remind the faculty or staff member that smoking is not permitted on BMC/BUMC property. If it is a habitual problem, notify your manager or contact Public Safety at 4-4444. As with any violation, Public Safety staff may complete an incident report that will be forwarded to the employee's manager and Human Resources.

What do I say if I see a visitor smoking?

"Excuse me ... Do you know that the medical campus is (or 'we are') smoke free inside and out? There is no smoking allowed anywhere on campus."