



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Warrensburg Smokefree Ordinance Effective Tuesday

Ordinance protects all workers and patrons, beginning November 23, 2010.

Warrensburg, Missouri –In November 2009 the Warrensburg City Council adopted a smokefree ordinance. The ordinance goes into effect this Tuesday, November 23, 2010. The ordinance protects employees and customers from secondhand smoke exposure in all indoor workplaces and public places, including restaurants and bars.

Smokefree ordinances protect citizens from the serious health harms of secondhand smoke. The U.S. Surgeon General issued a report in 2006 that found secondhand smoke to be a major risk factor for heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, emphysema, asthma, and other diseases. Studies have found that communities that enact smokefree ordinances in public places see significant decreases in hospital admissions for cardiovascular conditions.

Warrensburg's success builds upon the growing trend of smokefree communities in Missouri. The majority of other states have already implemented smokefree laws—including neighboring Iowa, Illinois, Kansas and Nebraska—but Missouri has yet to act. Bills introduced in the last legislative session were not reported out of committee.

The education campaign leading up to the ordinance ensured a smooth transition to Warrensburg's smokefree community. A copy of the ordinance can be found at www.tobaccofreemo.org. Additional information can be obtained by calling The City of Warrensburg at 660.747.9131. Non-compliance claims can be made by calling the Warrensburg Police Department's central dispatch at 660.747.2265.

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