

Press Release

(For Immediate Release)

30 April 2022

COSH and all sectors of community are glad to see the enforcement of total ban on alternative smoking products

Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 has come into effect today (30 April), which prohibits the import, promotion, manufacture, sale and possession for commercial purposes of alternative smoking products (ASPs), including electronic cigarettes, heated tobacco products (HTPs) and herbal cigarettes. Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) and 56 co-signatories below are glad to see the new enforcement measure has been carried out, so as to provide greater protection to the population. ASP users are advised to take this opportunity to kick the habit for healthier lifestyle.

Given that children and youth are the marketing targets of ASPs, a total ban on ASPs could safeguard the next generation from tobacco temptations in all forms, as well as to curb tobacco epidemic. Mr Henry TONG, COSH Chairman said, “This is an important step forward in the development of Hong Kong tobacco control policies. Not only does it prevent the gateway to smoking through ASPs, but it also motivates smokers to stay tobacco-free. In the long run, the smoking prevalence will drop which helps create favourable condition for implementing tobacco endgame in the future.”

An increasing number of researches found that ASPs could release detrimental chemicals and carcinogens. Some chemicals are found to be either present in higher concentration in aerosols of that ASPs or not found in conventional cigarette smoke. The findings from The University of Hong Kong showed that the risk of respiratory symptoms among the adolescent electronic cigarette users and HTP users was higher in exclusive cigarette users. The threat of ASPs to population health must therefore not be ignored.

COSH, together with all sectors of community, will continue to strengthen the publicity and education programmes to remind the public not to purchase ASPs from any channels, publicize the hazards of tobacco and promote smoking cessation. The Government is also recommended to step up enforcement actions for enhancing policy effectiveness. Besides, we urge the Government to strengthen tobacco control effort in the future, in order to further lower the smoking prevalence for progressing towards the goal of tobacco endgame.

This press statement is jointly released by:

Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health

Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control

Association of Principals of Government Secondary Schools

Central & Western District Health Centre Express (Operator: HKSR)

Christian Family Service Centre Primary Healthcare Services

Clear the Air

Council of Hong Kong & Kowloon Kai-Fong Associations
Eastern District Health Centre Express (Operator: HKSR)
Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Federation of Parent Teacher Associations in Kwun Tong District Ltd
Federation of Parent Teacher Associations of Hong Kong Eastern District
Federation of Parent Teacher Associations of Islands District
Federation of Parent-Teacher Association Southern District, H.K
Federation of Parent-Teacher Association, Kowloon City District
Federation of Parent-Teacher Association, Tai Po District
Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations, Tuen Mun
Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations, Wanchai District
Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations (Kwai Tsing District) Ltd.
Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations of the Central and Western District
Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations of the Sai Kung District
Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations of Yuen Long District Limited
Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations Sham Shui Po District Limited
Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations Wongtaisin District Limited
Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association
Hong Kong Association of Youth Development
Hong Kong Central and Western District Women Association
Hong Kong Dental Association
Hong Kong Direct Subsidy Scheme Schools Council
Hong Kong Island Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations
Hong Kong Island School Heads Association
Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council
Kowloon City District Health Centre Express (Operator: The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon)
Kowloon Region School Heads Association
Life Education Activity Programme
Medical Conscience
New Territories School Heads Association
North District Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations
School of Nursing, Tung Wah College
Sha Tin District Health Centre Express (Operator: HKSR)
Subsidized Primary Schools Council
The Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong
The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing and the 14 Academy Colleges:
 Hong Kong College of Cardiac Nursing
 Hong Kong College of Community and Public Health Nursing
 Hong Kong College of Critical Care Nursing

Hong Kong College of Education & Research in Nursing
Hong Kong College of Emergency Nursing
Hong Kong College of Gerontology Nursing
Hong Kong College of Medical Nursing
Hong Kong College of Mental Health Nursing
Hong Kong College of Midwives
Hong Kong College of Nursing & Health Care Management
Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Nursing
Hong Kong College of Paediatric Nursing
Hong Kong College of Perioperative Nursing
Hong Kong College of Surgical Nursing

The Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society

The Hong Kong Association of the Heads of Secondary Schools

The Hong Kong Medical Association

The Hong Kong Special Schools Council

The Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care, Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The Joint Council of Parent-Teacher Associations of the Shatin District Ltd.

The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon

The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong

The Youth Quitline

Tsuen Wan District Parent Teacher Association Federation Limited

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Integrated Centre on Smoking Cessation

Union of Government Primary School Headmasters and Headmistresses

United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service

Yau Tsim Mong District Health Centre Express (Operator: The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon)

Yau Tsim Mong Federation of Parents Teachers Association

Enquiry : Ms Shelby WONG, Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health

Contact : 2185 6388/ 9848 3136