

Should signs be posted?

All businesses and public places in the specified prohibited smoking areas are required to clearly post a minimum of one "No Smoking" sign, which can be the international "No Smoking" symbol.

Where can I report a violation?

You may report violations of the Rome Smokefree Air Ordinance by notifying the business owner, the City Manager's Office (706-236-4400) or the Rome City Police (911).

What are the penalties?

A person who smokes/vapes in an area where smoking is prohibited can be fined \$50-\$250. A business that permits smoking can be fined \$100-\$500. The City may also suspend or revoke permits or licenses issued to businesses that are habitual violators of the ordinance.

Where can I get information on how to quit smoking?

You can contact the Tobacco Program Manager of the Northwest Georgia Regional Cancer Coalition, Sandra Bethune, at 706-676-4756 or call the Georgia Tobacco Quit Line. The Georgia Tobacco Quit Line provides free counseling, support, and referral services for tobacco users and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). Quit Line services are available free of charge for Georgia. Call 1-877-270-STOP (7867) or visit www.dph.georgia.gov/ready-quit.

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R O M E

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R O M E
SMOKEFREE AIR
ORDINANCE of 2019

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE

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Effective April 1, 2019

Rome Code of Ordinances, Sec. 14.61

What is the Rome Smokefree Air Ordinance of 2019?

In February 2019, the Rome City Commissioners voted overwhelmingly to pass an ordinance to eliminate smoking and vaping in all workplaces. Effective April 1, 2019, the new law expands the Georgia Smokefree Air Act to prohibit smoking in the Broad Street District.

How is this law helpful to me?

This law reduces your exposure to secondhand smoke and vapor and its associated risks. Tobacco use, particularly smoking, is the leading cause of death in the United States. Eliminating smoking in public will reduce the number of tobacco-related illnesses and deaths, which number more than 11,000 each year in Georgia Alone. This law provides cleaner and safer environments for us to live, work and play.

What is secondhand smoke?

Secondhand smoke is a mixture of the smoke/vapor exhaled from the lungs of smokers and the smoke is given off by the burning end of a cigarette, cigar, pipe or vaping device. This mixture contains more than 40,000 substances, more than 40 of which are known to cause cancer in humans and animals.

Exposure to secondhand smoke/vapor can contribute to or cause severe health problems in both smokers and non-smokers, including cancer, emphysema, heart disease, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and asthma. Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of secondhand smoke. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. The goal of Rome's Smokefree Air Act is to protect workers and the public from involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke and vapor.



Where is smoking NOT allowed?

- Broad Street District
- Town Green park
- All downtown parking decks
- Bridgepoint Plaza
- All enclosed areas within places of employment:
 - Common work areas
 - Auditoriums
 - Classrooms
 - Conference/Meeting rooms
 - Private offices
 - Elevators
 - Hallways
 - Medical facilities
 - Cafeterias
 - Employee lounges
 - Stairs
 - Restrooms
 - All other enclosed facilities within the city



Where is smoking prohibited outdoors?

- The publicly owned outdoor areas of Broad Street between East 1st Avenue and East 8th Avenue, including the side streets and alleyways for one block off of Broad Street.
- Within a distance of 25 feet from a public entrance to a public place or place of employment.

Are there any exceptions?

- Private residences, unless used as a childcare, adult day care, or health care facility.
- Designated smoking hotel and motel rooms.
- Existing retail tobacco stores, within the guidelines.
- Existing retail vaping stores, within the guidelines.
- "18 and over" bars and restaurants
- Designated smoking areas by employers that meet the requirements.

What about other types of smoking?

Cigars, pipes, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, JUULs and hookah pipes have the same restrictions as cigarettes under this ordinance.

How can I get more information about the Rome Smokefree Ordinance of 2019?

Visit www.romefloyd.com