

FAQS

Questions about The Policy

1. How has Douglas College's smoking policy changed?

Until August 31, 2018, smoking/vaping is currently allowed in designated smoking areas on campuses and properties. The new policy prohibits smoking/vaping/chewing on the grounds of Douglas College. All Douglas College campuses and sites will be smoke free as of September 1, 2018.

The policy is expected to be approved by end of August and will be posted at that time.

2. What exactly will be prohibited?

Holding or smoking lighted tobacco, electronic cigarettes or other related devices that produce smoke by plant based materials will be prohibited on Douglas College property. Vapour producing devices and chewing tobacco are also prohibited.

The burning of certain substances for Aboriginal and cultural uses (ie. Smudging) are exempt from this policy. For more information please refer to Question #19.

3. Why did our campuses go smoke free?

Douglas College chose to go smoke-free to provide a healthy and safe work and study environment for its community members. The decision is in line with other educational institutions choosing to go smoke free.

4. To whom and when does the policy apply?

The policy applies to everyone using Douglas College's campuses or properties including, but not limited to, students, employees, volunteers, contractors, vendors, board members, and visitors. The policy is in effect 24 hours per day including evenings, weekends and holidays and when the college is closed.

5. When will the policy come into effect?

The policy will come into effect on September 1, 2018 on all Douglas College campuses and sites.

6. *As a neighbour of the college, I'm concerned this change may result in more smokers on my property. What steps are you taking to prevent this?*

Douglas College will monitor, through Facilities Services, any litter that may be caused by this policy initiative. We encourage our community to be respectful of our neighbours.

All queries should be directed to Facilities Services

Coquitlam: facilities_dl@douglascollege.ca

New Westminster: facilities_nw@douglascollege.ca

Questions about Being a Smoker at Douglas College

7. Isn't smoking my personal right?

The tobacco-free policy does not ask employees, students or visitors to quit using tobacco products, but rather, prohibits the use of tobacco products on Douglas College property. Everyone has a right to a safe and secure environment, free from the harms of second-hand smoke. This initiative is consistent with our goals of supporting good health and wellness.

8. Will there be designated smoking areas on campus?

This policy change removes the designated smoking areas from the College property.

9. Will I be able to smoke/vape in my car in the parking lot?

Parking lots are on Douglas College property. As such, the policy applies to vehicles stopped and/or parked on College property.

10. Can I smoke on Douglas College Training Group sites or other properties?

Training Group sites are Douglas College campuses and are subject to the same prohibition as all other Douglas College campuses.

11. What about my safety if I choose to smoke/vape and go off campus, especially at night?

Should you choose to go off campus to smoke, please exercise the same degree of caution as you would any other time you leave campus. Amongst other measures, if you go off campus at night, please consider staying in well-lit areas and, where possible, travel in a group.

12. How will I be able to smoke between classes/while working if there is nowhere I can smoke on campus?

We acknowledge this initiative will impact some individuals and we encourage you to seek medical advice to help manage nicotine cravings during class and working hours. For more information, please refer to our Resources section.

Questions about Smoking Cessation

13. What services can I access to help me smoke less or quit smoking?

Employees and students can access the BC Smoking Cessation Program (“QuitNowBC”). The program is available to residents of BC who hold a social insurance number (SIN) and have registered in PharmaCare. The program provides either nicotine replacement therapy products or prescription smoking cessation drugs. The program can be accessed once/year.

<https://www.quitnow.ca/>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare-for-bc-residents/what-we-cover/drug-coverage/bc-smoking-cessation-program>

14. Do employee health benefits include cessation programs or medications?

Some smoking cessation products or medications may be covered. Please consult your benefits booklet for information on coverage. In addition, the Employee and Family Assistance Program offers smoking cessation assistance.

15. E-cigarettes do not contain tobacco and emit vapour. Why are they included in the policy?

Provincial legislation treats tobacco products and non-tobacco products similarly. Therefore, e-cigarettes are included in the new policy. The tobacco industry heavily markets e-cigarettes as a cessation device, although they have not been approved by Health Canada for this purpose.

Questions about Enforcement

16. What will happen to people smoking on campus after September 1st, 2018?

The expectation is that everyone in our community will follow this new policy. After September 1, 2018, Douglas College security will advise individuals if they are in violation of the new policy and ask them to stop or leave Douglas College property. There is no monetary fine. Further infractions will result in a violation of the [Student Conduct Policy](#).

Violations involving employees, contractors or volunteers will be referred to their Supervisors for appropriate follow up.

17. When cannabis is legalized, will this policy apply to marijuana smoking?

As stated in the policy, smoke produced by any plant based material will be prohibited on campus. This includes cannabis.

Questions about Exemption from Policy

18. Will use of tobacco for traditional Aboriginal ceremonies be allowed on Douglas College property?

Douglas College acknowledges the traditional use of tobacco as part of Aboriginal culture and spirituality; therefore, culturally related use may be considered for an exemption under this policy. Smudging is permitted under Provincial legislation. For more information, please refer to the [Smudging SOP](#).

19. Are there exemptions for medical reasons?

If you have a medical condition and would like to request an exemption under the Duty to Accommodate you may do so by following existing procedures.

Students may contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities

New Westminster: 604-527-5486
Coquitlam: 604-777-6185
Email: stuserv@douglascollege.ca

Employees are advised to contact the Disability Management Specialist in Human Resources. 604-527-5342