

## *For Immediate Release*

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### Six Months Later, E-cigarette Ban Shows Progress

#### ***Use of E-cigarettes Inside is Illegal, County Says***

BUFFALO, NY SEPTEMBER 17 - Six months ago, Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz signed legislation to include e-cigarettes in the Erie County Clean Indoor Air Act. While many business owners and citizens have complied with the new law, there is still some confusion about where the use of electronic devices is allowed.

"The Erie County Clean Indoor Air Act was updated to include e-cigarettes to protect public health. Wherever cigarette smoking is restricted, so is the use of electronic cigarettes," said Erie County Commissioner of Health, Gale Burstein. Exception is given to certified e-cigarette businesses that are allowed to use these devices in their stores.

The United States Food Drug Administration continues to share findings that warn laboratory analysis of electronic cigarette samples contain carcinogens and toxic chemicals such as diethylene glycol, an ingredient used in antifreeze. There is also growing concern that e-cigarette use has tripled among middle and high school students in just one year, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Tobacco Products. These discouraging outcomes threaten the steady reduction of cigarette smoking rates

amongst youth over the past decade.

Peter Savage, the Erie County Legislator who sponsored the bill stated, "We have received positive feedback from local business, restaurants and bars. They are telling me the new e- cigarette guidelines are easing confusion among their staff and customers."

Erie County is one of eight areas in New York State that has included e-cigarettes in their Clean Indoor Air Act legislation, with many others expected to be close behind.

For more information on this issue, or tobacco control initiatives in Erie and Niagara County, contact Jenna Brinkworth, Tobacco Free Erie-Niagara, at 716-845-1615 or [Jenna.Brinkworth@roswellpark.org](mailto:Jenna.Brinkworth@roswellpark.org).

### ***About Tobacco-Free Western New York***

Tobacco-Free Western New York, funded by the New York Tobacco Control Program, engages community stakeholders and youth to change policies and norms about tobacco and tobacco use. Community Engagement and Reality Check Youth Engagement Coordinators offer tobacco prevention and control programs in Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties. Get more information at [wnytobaccofree.com](http://wnytobaccofree.com) or by calling 845-1300, X4207.

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