



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dickinson-Iron District Health Department Kicks off Public Education Campaign *Michigan Going Smoke Free May 1*

Kingsford and Iron River, MI, April 8, 2010 - The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) kicked off a Public Education Campaign to raise awareness about the statewide smoke-free air law, which takes effect May 1, 2010. As part of the campaign the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department will be providing presentations to community groups and businesses about the specifics of the law during April 2010.

The Michigan Department of Community Health has developed a website, www.michigan.gov/smokefreelaw, that communicates the details of the law, provides information for businesses on how to comply with the law, and contains affidavits for businesses wishing to apply for the cigar bar and tobacco specialty shop exemptions. The website also includes a Frequently Asked Questions document that answers the most commonly asked questions regarding the law. In addition, a new television Public Service Announcement (PSA), titled "Smoked Lasagna" is running in partnership with the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. The PSA can also be found on the website.

"It's exciting to begin this new era in Michigan where going out to dinner won't mean being exposed to secondhand smoke for patrons or for employees," said Janet Olszewski, MDCH Director. "This is good news for all Michigan citizens."

The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is available to answer questions related to the new law. "We're looking forward to May 1st and expect that compliance among business owners in our community will be quite high," stated Kelly Rumpf, Health Educator.

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm signed legislation that prohibits smoking in public places such as restaurants, bars, hotels, or any place that serves food or beverages. The Ron M. Davis Law, named after the late chief medical officer of the Department of Public Health, takes effect May 1, 2010, and will make Michigan the 38th state to ban smoking in public places.

For more information about the law visit www.michigan.gov/smokefreelaw. To request a presentation for your group or business, call Rumpf at 779-7234.

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