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Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

December 15, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DuPage County Board of Health Resolution: Prohibit Tobacco Sales to Anyone Under 21

DUPAGE COUNTY— The DuPage County Board of Health announced its support of laws to prohibit the sale of tobacco to anyone under the age of 21.

The resolution, recommended by the DuPage County Health Department, takes into consideration that tobacco use is a contributing factor in the leading causes of death in DuPage County, including cancer, heart disease, stroke and chronic lower respiratory disease.

“Numerous studies show that raising the minimum legal sale age (MLSA) for tobacco products to 21 is an effective intervention,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 95 percent of adult smokers begin before age 21, and many smokers move from experimental smoking to regular, daily use between 18 and 21.

Ayala said the resolution follows discussions to reduce tobacco introduction among adolescents with the American Lung Association, American Heart Association, Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium and Respiratory Health Association.

“We’re providing local municipalities, and state legislators support and guidance that promotes the well-being of our youth,” she said.

The DuPage County Health Department considers tobacco use to be a significant public health concern. An Illinois Tobacco-Free Communities Grant is used to prevent youth tobacco use, promote tobacco cessation among youth and adults, and eliminate tobacco-related disparities and exposure to secondhand smoke in the County.

The Illinois Tobacco Quitline can help you quit smoking (866) 784-8937.

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