

FORMAL NOTICE: Message from the Chancellor - Citations to be issued for violations of No Smoking Policy

Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008

Dear Carolina students, faculty and staff:

At the beginning of this year, we took an important step toward preserving a healthy work and learning environment. Since January, smoking has been prohibited in state-owned vehicles and all outdoor University areas up to 100 feet from University facilities.

The policy intends to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke, and it applies to all visitors, patients, students and employees. We have no designated smoking areas, so the practical effect of the policy is that the campus is smoke free.

Until now, our focus has been on education about the policy and resources to help people quit smoking. But we are increasingly receiving reports of smokers who refuse to move the required 100 feet away from University facilities and who litter the ground with their cigarette butts.

Beginning Sept. 2, the Department of Public Safety will issue citations to violators. Anyone who smokes within any smoke-free area on campus is at risk to receive a citation. Each citation will result in a \$25 fine and \$121 in court costs.

In citing people who violate the policy, our intent is to promote the health and well-being of people on our campus.

To help members of the Carolina community who would like to quit smoking, we will continue to offer smoking cessation assistance. For information, students should refer to the Campus Health Services Web site, <http://campushealth.unc.edu>, and faculty and staff should refer to the Environment, Health and Safety Web site, <http://www.ehs.unc.edu>.

In conjunction with our enforcement efforts, our colleagues at UNC Health Care will remind staff, visitors and patients about the 100-foot no-smoking boundary around facilities on University property. They also will be subject to receiving citations.

Thank you for your continuing cooperation in keeping the people in our University and health-care communities away from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

Sincerely,

Holden Thorp