

POLICY A.01	Smoking Policy	DOMAIN Governance and Ethics
<b>ELT Sponsor:</b> Chief Executive Officer  <b>Policy Lead(s):</b> Chief Operating Officer, Seniors & Continuing Care; Vice President, Quality & Innovation; General Counsel & Director, Risk Management		<b>Date Approved:</b> January 13, 2026
		<b>Date Effective:</b> January 27, 2026
		<b>Date of Next Review:</b> January 2030

For further information please contact [covenantpolicy@covenanthealth.ca](mailto:covenantpolicy@covenanthealth.ca)

NOTE: The first appearance of terms in bold in the body of this document (except titles) are defined terms – please refer to the Definition section

## Policy Statement:

Covenant prohibits **smoking**<sup>1</sup> or **vaping of tobacco, cannabis**, or other smoked/vaped products to prevent second and **third-hand exposure** within its facilities and on facility grounds.

## Exceptions:

- The burning of substances for religious reasons, for example smudging or sweet grass ceremonies must adhere to Covenant Health's I-50.GUIDE.2 [Ceremonies Involving Burning Substances](#).
- Patients/residents/visitors** that use smoking/vaping products may do so only if the facility has a **designated smoking area**:
  - Visitors may only use the designated smoking area while they are supporting a patient/resident. Visitors who are not in the company of a patient/resident may be asked to leave the designated smoking area and/or Site.
  - Covenant staff, members of the medical staff, volunteers, students and any other persons acting on behalf of Covenant are prohibited from using the designated smoking area.

## Purpose Statement:

This document outlines Covenant's strategy to comply with legislation to provide an environment free of smoke or vape from tobacco, cannabis, and other smoked/vaped products for staff, patients/residents and visitors.

## Applicability:

All Covenant facilities (Covenant Health, Covenant Care, and Covenant Living), staff, medical staff, students, volunteers and any other persons acting on behalf of Covenant.

## Responsibility:

- Covenant staff, members of the medical staff, volunteers, students and any other persons acting on behalf of Covenant shall not smoke on Covenant property.

<sup>1</sup> Hereafter, all references to 'smoking' includes the use of e-cigarettes and vaporizing devices.

Smoking Policy	Effective Date January 27, 2026	Policy Number A.01	Page 2 of 5
----------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------

- Covenant's administrative and medical leaders will demonstrate commitment to this policy by promoting a tobacco free environment, referring staff to Covenant's Employee and Family Assistance Program provider for their smoking cessation program and supporting enforcement initiatives.
- Covenant staff and members of the medical staff will inform patients and residents that Covenant prohibits smoking on Covenant property unless the facility has a designated smoking area and will offer cessation/nicotine replacement therapies to patients and residents.
- Covenant Protective Services and/or Community Peace Officers have the authority and responsibility to enforce tobacco and cannabis-related legislation.

### Principles:

- Covenant supports a smoke-free indoor environment to maintain patient/resident safety and well-being. Covenant is also committed to providing visitors, staff, members of the medical staff, volunteers, and students with a smoke-free environment.
- Covenant will ensure that smoking or vaping status does not restrict or delay access to publicly funded **continuing care** spaces and outlines conditions under which smoking or vaping can be safely accommodated.
- Tobacco use is a leading cause of preventable death and disability. As such, Covenant will strive to positively influence the health of Albertans by providing a tobacco-free environment and promoting smoking cessation.
  - Because of the unknown effects on the health of the individual or others exposed to them, e-cigarettes and vaporizing devices are considered the same as regular tobacco products
- Patients/residents/clients will be advised of smoking cessation resources available to them.
- Covenant Health staff can access tobacco reduction and cessation information by contacting Occupational Health and Safety.

### Enforcement:

1. Individuals smoking within buildings or are less than five or ten meters, depending on the municipal bylaw, of any doorway, window that opens, or air intake may be issued a fine or citation by Protective Services Community Peace Officer or a Community Peace Officer in accordance with the *Tobacco, Smoking and Vaping Reduction Act* (Alberta) and the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act* (Alberta).
2. Patients/residents/visitors smoking on hospital grounds, except in designated smoking areas, may be asked to leave the property or be issued a trespass warning under the *Trespass to Premises Act* (Alberta).

Staff, members of the medical staff, volunteers or students or any other individual acting on behalf of Covenant smoking on hospital property will be reported to their manager and to the Senior Operating Officer/Site Administrator. Repeat offences will lead to disciplinary action per Covenant Health's II-20 [Discipline and Termination](#) policy and Covenant Health's 3.24 [Alcohol and Drug Policy](#).

**Definitions:**

**Cannabis** means the preparations and derivatives made out of the various part of the entire cannabis plant (Cannabis sativa and Cannabis indica being the most popular varieties). Various products can be made from the parts of the entire cannabis plant including all extracts, edibles, oils and dried flower or bud.

**Continuing Care** means a range of services that support the health and well-being of individuals living in their own homes, a supportive living accommodation or continuing care home. Continuing care patients/residents are defined by their need for care, not by their age or diagnosis or the length of time they may require service.

**Designated smoking area** means an outdoor area that is designated for smoking and is away from the facility's doorways, air intake ventilation, and windows.

**Patient** means all persons, inclusive of residents, who receive or have requested health care or services from Covenant Health and its health care providers or individuals authorized to act on behalf of Covenant Health. Patient also means, where applicable, a co-decision-maker with the person; or an alternate decision-maker on behalf of the person.

**Smoke(-ing)** means to inhale or exhale the smoke produced by a lit tobacco or cannabis product, or to hold or otherwise have control of a heated or lit tobacco or cannabis product. Smoking also includes using any tobacco or cannabis product that is heated, but not burned.

**Third-hand smoke** means the toxic chemicals that settle on surfaces after the air clears from smoking or vaping. Nicotine and other toxic chemicals attach to surfaces like clothes, walls, floors, and windows. Third-hand exposure can happen when you ingest (swallow) residue, breathe it in, or absorb it through your skin.

**Tobacco** means any product composed in whole or in part of tobacco leaves including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing/dipping tobacco, tobacco extract, flavoured tobacco, and shisha/hookah, but does not include any regulated Nicotine Replacement Therapy product.

**Vaping** means to inhale or exhale the vapour produced by a device that contains a power source and heating element intended for vaporizing a substance. Vaping substances may or may not include nicotine or cannabis. Vaping does not include any regulated Nicotine Replacement Therapy product.

**Visitor**, for the purposes of this document, means an individual who spends time with the patient/resident for a temporary period for the purposes of providing support to the patient/resident; this does not include staff or any other persons acting on behalf of Covenant.

**Relevant Policy and Policy Support Documents:****A.****Policies:**

Covenant Health:

- II-20 [Discipline and Termination](#)

<b>Smoking Policy</b>	Effective Date January 27, 2026	Policy Number A.01	Page 4 of 5
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.24 <a href="#">Alcohol and Drug Policy</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Procedures:</b> A.01.PROC.1 <a href="#">Smoking and Vaping Accessibility and Safety - Seniors and Continuing Care</a> A.01.PROC.2 <a href="#">Smoking and Vaping Safety - Acute Care</a>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Guidelines:</b> Covenant Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I-50.GUIDE.2 <a href="#">Ceremonies Involving Burning Substances</a></li> </ul>
<b>D.</b>	<b>Job aids:</b> A.01.JOBAID.1 <a href="#">Cannabis in Continuing Care FAQ</a> A.01.JOBAID.2 <a href="#">Resident Smoking and Vaping Agreement</a> A.01.JOBAID.3 <a href="#">Home Care Smoking and Vaping Agreement</a>  Covenant Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Use of Medical Cannabis by Patients and Residents While in Care</a></li> <li><a href="#">Brief Intervention for Patients who Use Tobacco or Tobacco Related Products</a></li> <li><a href="#">AlbertaQuits Helpline Referral</a></li> </ul>
<b>E.</b>	<b>Standards:</b>
<b>Keywords:</b> Vaping, tobacco, nicotine, cessation, cannabis, marijuana,	
<b>References:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Quit Smoking or Vaping   AlbertaQuits</a></li> <li><a href="#">Tobacco, Smoking and Vaping Reduction Act</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Tobacco, Smoking and Vaping Reduction Regulation</a></li> </ul> </li> <li><a href="#">Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act</a></li> <li><a href="#">Provincial Offences Procedures Act</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Procedures Regulation</a></li> </ul> </li> <li><a href="#">Trespass to Premises Act</a></li> <li><a href="#">Alberta's Tobacco and Vaping Reduction Strategy</a></li> <li><a href="#">Smoking Cessation Guidelines: How to Treat your Patient's Tobacco Addiction</a></li> <li>National Building Code – Alberta Edition</li> <li>National Fire Code – Alberta Edition</li> <li>Applicable Municipal Bylaws and Provincial Statutes</li> </ul>	
<b>Past Revisions:</b> Covenant Health:	

Smoking Policy	Effective Date January 27, 2026	Policy Number A.01	Page 5 of 5
----------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------

- October 29, 2025 – previously *I-40 No Smoking*
- October 30, 2024
- January 13, 2017
- April 10, 2015
- March 17, 2012