



KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

November 23, 2015

John T. Standley
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Rite Aid
30 Hunter Lane
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Dear Mr. Standley:

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY RECOMMENDS ELIMINATING THE
SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND E-CIGARETTES IN PHARMACIES

On October 29, 2014, the California State Board of Pharmacy adopted a policy statement that recommends eliminating the sale of tobacco products and electronic cigarettes in pharmacies and stores that contain pharmacies. Tobacco products are known to cause cancer, heart disease, lung disease and other health problems, while pharmacies are known as vendors of products and information for the prevention and treatment of disease. In announcing its policy recommendation, Board President, Stan Weisser stated, "This recommendation sends a clear and consistent message that combining tobacco sales and a pharmacy within the same business is not in the best interests of public health." The Board's policy statement may be found at <http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/about/tobacco.shtml>.

In 2014, CVS was the first pharmacy to announce its plan to stop selling tobacco products and e-cigarettes in its 7,700 retail locations. In February 2015, regional supermarket operator Raley's Company announced that it would halt sales of cigarettes at some of its Raley's, Bel Air, and Nob Hill food stores in Northern California and Nevada, although tobacco products continue to be sold at other Raley's affiliate stores. Costco has also stopped selling tobacco products at some of their California warehouses. Most recently, in May 2015, Medicine Shoppe International announced that the sale of tobacco and tobacco-related products at nearly all Medicine Shoppe and Medicap pharmacy locations would be prohibited. Medicine Shoppe International's Vice President, John Fiacco commented, "As retailers, we believe our franchisees can play a significant role in limiting access to tobacco and tobacco-related products — and in preventing the diseases and health problems those products can cause." There are 37 Medicine Shoppe locations in California.

Mr. Standley
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The actions taken by these retailers, municipalities, and the California State Board of Pharmacy are landmark steps which closely align with the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) mission to optimize the health and well-being of the people in California, as well as California Health and Human Services Agency, Secretary Diana Dooley's efforts to make California the healthiest state in the nation. Success of this nature will only be possible with the collaboration, partnership, and shared vision of many stakeholders, including state and local agencies, retailers, and others working together.

The role of pharmacies and pharmacists in promoting the health of individuals and communities is expanding, and extends beyond policy initiatives to eliminate the sale of tobacco and e-cigarettes. Senate Bill (SB) 493 (Hernandez, Statutes of 2013) officially declared pharmacists to be healthcare providers, and allows pharmacists certified in smoking cessation to furnish prescription nicotine replacement therapy medicines to people trying to quit tobacco. Many pharmacists will be taking an active role in promoting tobacco cessation in their communities by supporting quit attempts with their patients, including furnishing prescription nicotine replacement therapies, and referring tobacco users to cessation counseling services such as the California Smokers' Helpline, 1-800-NO-BUTTS. As such, this is an ideal time to consider how the sale of tobacco products and electronic cigarettes fit in with pharmacy practice moving forward.

CDPH encourages pharmacies and stores which, offer pharmacy services as part of their business to follow the recommendation of the California State Board of Pharmacy and eliminate the sale of tobacco products and e-cigarettes. CDPH further recommends that pharmacists be supported in seeking certification in tobacco cessation and in participating in the expanded role defined by SB 493.

If there are ways in which CDPH can support your efforts to act on the Board's recommendation for your business in California, please contact, April Roeseler, Branch Chief, California Tobacco Control Program, California Department of Public Health at (916) 449-5504 or april.roeseler@cdph.ca.gov.

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Sincerely,



Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer



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Robert I. Thompson
Executive Vice President, Pharmacy
Rite Aid
30 Hunter Lane
Camp Hill, PA 17011

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Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer



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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



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November 23, 2015

Stefano Pessina
Chief Executive Officer
Walgreens
1415 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, IL 60015

Dear Mr. Pessina:

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Richard Ashworth
President, Pharmacy and Retail Operations
Walgreens
1415 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, IL 60015

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Robert Miller
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Safeway-Albertsons
M/S 10501
P.O. Box 29093
Phoenix, AZ 85038-9093

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November 23, 2015

Nicole Piccinini Pesco
Co-President & Chief Strategy and Branding Officer
Save Mart Supermarkets
ATTN: Consumer Relations
P.O. Box 4278
Modesto, CA 95352

Dear Ms. Piccinini Pesco:

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ATTN: Consumer Relations
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ATTN: Consumer Relations
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Mr. Junqueiro
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Sincerely,



Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer



KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

November 23, 2015

Rodney McMullen
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
The Kroger Co.
1014 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-1100

Dear Mr. McMullen:

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Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer



KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

November 23, 2015

W. Craig Jelinek
President & CEO
Costco
P. O. Box 34331
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Mr. Jelinek:

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Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

November 23, 2015

C. Douglas Mcmillon
President and CEO
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
702 SW 8th St,
Bentonville, AR 72716

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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

November 23, 2015

Rosalind Brewer
President & CEO, Sams Club
2101 S. E. Simple Savings Drive
Bentonville, AR 72716 - 0745

Dear Ms. Brewer:

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Materials are available to assist your pharmacy in helping your patrons quit smoking...



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Chewing Tobacco 1-800-844-CHEW	韓人금연센터 1-800-556-5564
Deaf/Hard of Hearing 1-800-933-4833	Trung Tâm Cai Thuốc Lá 1-800-778-8440

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