



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Alcohol and Tobacco Merchant Sales Compliance Check Update

FREDERICK, MD -- Between July 1, 2025, and September 30, 2025, the Frederick County Liquor Board and Frederick County Health Department conducted compliance checks of Frederick County businesses. Of the 51 alcohol-selling businesses inspected, 39 passed and 12 sold alcohol to the underage buyers. Of the 20 tobacco-selling businesses inspected, 18 passed and two sold to an underage buyer. The complete report of businesses checked and the results is available [here](#).

According to the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the most recent year data is available, roughly 22% of all Frederick County high school students said they had at least one drink of alcohol in the last 30 days. By the time students reach the age of 18, it increases to nearly 39%.

"Protecting youth from early access to tobacco and alcohol is a top priority for Frederick County," states Andrea Walker, Director of the Behavioral Health Services Division at the Frederick County Health Department. "Businesses that are well informed about current sales laws and compliant with those sales laws makes for a safer and healthier community."

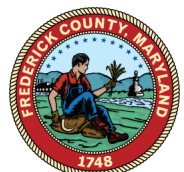
The Merchant Sales Compliance Initiative aims to reduce youth access to alcohol and tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, by conducting random compliance checks of businesses located in Frederick County. The program's goal is to protect public health and promote health and wellness in our youth.

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Environmental strategies, including policy and enforcement efforts, are effective strategies in preventing the misuse of tobacco and alcohol by youth, according to the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. A compliance check is when the health department or liquor board check to see if a business selling alcohol or tobacco checks to see if a buyer is 21 before allowing the sale.

In Frederick County, underage individuals assist in the execution of both alcohol and tobacco merchant compliance checks. All underage individuals possess their valid state-issued driver's license or identification card, which is provided to every merchant who asks for identification. If the merchant asks the individual their age, the individual is required to reply truthfully. All underage individuals are accompanied and observed by a plainclothes officer.

For more information about the Frederick County Merchant Sales Compliance Initiative, call 301-600-1755 or visit: Health.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Merchants.

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