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United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service



- 家庭醫生 Family Medicine

- 社區營養服務
 Community Nutrition
- 外展醫療
- 中醫全科 Chinese Medicine
- 長者社區支援服務 Elderly Community Support Service
- 倡健學校計劃(健康校園)
- 愛鄰網絡 Good Neighbour Network (Rehabilitation Service)
- 健康教育及推廣 Health Education & Promotion
- 病理檢驗
- 臨床心理服務 Clinical Psychology
- 診斷影像 Diagnostic land



11 June 2015

Clerk to Panel on Health Services Legislative Council Secretariat Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council Road Central Hong Kong

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Submission of views on "Legislative proposals to strengthen tobacco control"

The United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service has the mission of promoting the health of the community and would like to submit our view on legislative proposals to strengthen tobacco control. We support the following proposals to government with the objective of safeguarding the health of the public:

1. Change to the cigarette packet

- 1.1 Increase the proportion of graphic health warning on cigarette package from current 50% to at least 85% of the surface area of the packet and the container.
- 1.2 Increase the number of forms of health warnings from 6 to 12. Include more graphic health warning targeting young women
- 1.3 Include this phrase on the packet ""Tobacco kills up to half of its users 半數煙 民因煙草失去生命" "Quitline: 1833 183; 戒煙熱線: 1833 183", messages should be bilingual- Chinese and English
- 1.4 the indication of tar and nicotine yields should be printed on a side adjacent to a typical flip-top lid of a cigarette packet, excluding the portion which forms part of the lid and the two largest surfaces, presented in a conspicuous place of such side of the packet.
- 1.5 The above changes apply to all types of tobacco product packets

2. Smoking Ban at Bus Interchange (BIs) at Tunnels Portal Areas

Waiting for the bus at a bus interchange is not a pleasant experience. The air quality

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is already full of car exhaust fumes. People waiting for the bus are unable to escape from it until the bus arrives, and they should not have to further endure additional air pollution from second hand cigarette smoke. To protect the health of non-smokers waiting for the bus, the bus interchange areas should also be non smoking areas. These include:

- (a) Cross-Harbour Tunnel;
- (b) Lion Rock Tunnel;
- (c) Shing Mun Tunnels;
- (d) Eastern Harbour Crossing;
- (e) Western Harbour Crossing;
- (f) Tate's Cairn Tunnel;
- (g) Tai Lam Tunnel; and
- (h) Tsing Sha Highway (between Sha Tin Heights Tunnel and Eagle's Nest Tunnel). Clear bilingual signage on smoking ban at all the above locations

 Fixed penalty tickets to be issued to those violating the ban

3. Regulate electronic cigarettes

Electronic cigarettes contain known harmful and unknown substances that are potentially harmful to health. They are marketed at youth and encourage a behavior that mimics cigarette smoking, normalizing and glamorising it and has the potential to lead up to cigarette smoking. Most smokers start their habit in their late teenage years or early 20's. We support the proposal to ban all forms of electronic cigarettes, with or without nicotine. More information on E- cigarettes, particularly targeting youth is suggested at schools and places were youth congregate.

Thank you for your attention. For any questions, please contact myself on 2357 4008. joycesf.tang@ucn.org.hk

Yours faithfully,

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Joyce S.F. Tang

Medical Director