



**Japan Society for Tobacco Control**

**日本禁煙学会**

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To Ministers of Health, Labor and Welfare and members of the Diet who are concerned with the prevention of passive smoking

To governors and local councilors who are concerned with the prevention of passive smoking

To central ministries and local government officials who are concerned with the prevention of passive smoking

To all persons concerned with laws and regulations to prevent passive smoking

**In appreciation of the new Reiwa era, we celebrate no smoking inside of type 1 facilities from 1 July 2019, according to the revised Health Promotion Act.**

**-The lives and health of citizens will be improved-**

1 July 2019

From members of the Japan Society for Tobacco Control, General incorporated association

From 1 July 2019, mandatory no smoking inside of type 1 facilities—like schools, parks, universities, medical clinics, hospitals and government agencies—will begin.

We celebrate the enforcement of new laws that will protect the health and will improve the lives of 85% of non-smokers from the harms of passive smoking:

- We can now expect children to grow up in smoke-free environment.
- As the most common product for damaging health, tobacco has almost vanished at medical facilities.
- The health of many people who work in public offices will no longer be impaired because their exposure to passive smoking will be eliminated.
- Restricting the number of public places to smoke can cue many smokers to quit smoking.
- From 1 April next year there will be general rule for no smoking indoors, and in particular a general smoking ban at type 2 facilities.  
(The premises of type 2 facilities will have no smoking indoors.)

Nearly a half a century has elapsed since tobacco control began in Japan, and it has been 17 years since the Health Promotion Act has stipulated measures to prevent passive smoking. But during this time, tobacco lobbyists and those from the tobacco industry have tried to obstruct tobacco regulations. Although a complete smoking ban was not achieved, the nation has now implemented an indoor smoking ban at type 1 facilities, and it will implement a general indoor smoking ban at type 2 facilities from April 1 next year.

Thus, significant progress has been made for Japan. In the Reiwa era can be remembered as the start of thorough passive smoking regulations. After an era when people endured unfettered public smoking, now people are not allowed to smoke in indoors in many major facilities, so that many people will not suffer from passive tobacco smoke. Japanese citizens can now breathe cleaner air. Previously unknown to citizens, smoke free public environments are now appearing around Japan.

Enforcement of current regulations to prevent passive smoking in Tokyo and other areas and enforcement of a general indoor smoking ban at type 2 facilities from April 1 next year will help both non-smokers and employees to breathe more easily. We also predict that many non-smokers and employees will avoid "private smoking rooms", "designated private smoking rooms" and as transitional measure, small restaurants where smoking is permissible. Just as smoking cars have been eliminated on the Shinkansen, we predict that restaurants and other facilities that permit smoking will gradually become less popular and eventually disappear under new regulations.

Regardless of how much tobacco lobbyists and those from the tobacco industry try to hinder anti-tobacco efforts, including by promoting heated tobacco, we predict that the majority of citizens will continue to want to avoid active and passive smoking of toxic tobacco.

Together with countries and citizens from around the world, we will strive towards a tobacco-free society, including one with no passive smoking. Thank you kindly for your consideration.

## **Thoughts from the Japan Society for Tobacco Control concerning smoking spaces:**

<http://www.jstc.or.jp/uploads/uploads/files/essay/20181222.pdf>