



Updated Grey Bruce Public Health Smoke Free Ontario Act Enforcement Process for Schools

To better support students from escalating the use of vapes, Grey Bruce Public Health is recommending an updated process to meet students where they are at. Any time a student has been found to have used e-cigarettes, or commercial tobacco products on school property, or when they have supplied these products to another student who is underage, the school administrator is required to contact a Tobacco Enforcement Officer at Public Health.

The first time a Tobacco Enforcement Officer (TEO) interacts with a student, they will offer a first step that the student will be required to meet with a school health nurse within a month of the offence. The student can choose to decline a visit with the nurse, but then must follow the typical diversion or offence procedure established.

About the Diversion Process, and Part 1, and Part III Tickets

Grey Bruce Public Health Diversion Program and Part 1 and Part III Tickets

Age 12 and Under

Parent/guardian involvement

**12- 16 years of age 1st, 2nd,
3rd offence**

Parent/guardian involvement

- **12-16 years of age (4th or more offence)**
- **16 and older**
- **Students choice about Parent/guardian involvement**



Grey Bruce Public Health Diversion Program and Part 1 and Part III Tickets

***Youth 12 and under cannot be charged**

For offences on school property, the youth will be referred to the school principal for action under school board policy. School officials may request a Tobacco Enforcement Officer speak with the youth and parent/guardian. A school health nurse can also provide education around the harms of e-cigarette use.

For offences not occurring on school property, the Tobacco Enforcement Officer may meet with the youth and their parent/guardian.

1st Offence: TEO's will offer students to be referred to GBPH School Program Nurse for one time consultation. If consult is completed and confirmed by nurse within one month of offence, once process complete confirm with area TEO.

2nd/3rd Offence: Meeting is held with the student, TEO, their parent/guardian and the principal to discuss the offence. The area TEO will determine if the youth will be ticketed or provided diversion option (required to complete an essay or complete 20 hours of community service).

The youth and their parent/guardian must sign the Youth Diversion Contract and submit the Youth Diversion Tracking sheet and letter to the Tobacco Enforcement Officer upon completion of 20 hours of community service within 3 months of the contract letter signed.

Failure to complete the full essay or 20 hours within the 3 month period will result in a Part III charge.

What is a Part 1? Is a ticket with a minimum set fine of \$305 or \$490 (or both) depending on charge(s), can request reduction with guilty plea, or have right to argue in court.

What is a Part III? Parents and teen are given summons, appear in court and speak with prosecutor. Set fine is \$305, but may be adjusted. Then go in front of justice of the peace. This takes place in superior court of justice on bails day. Tobacco Enforcement officers will attend and can state case and explain diversion.

If they choose to argue their case, there will be a trial date set at that time. At the trial date, the Tobacco enforcement officer and any witnesses attend. Judge can enforce min fine, or even increase the fine required to be paid.