

DRAFT

Date

Dear North Reading Retailer:

North Reading's Youth Substance Use Prevention Coalition and the North Reading Board of Health would like to inform you of public hearings to be held this fall to gain feedback on the potential adoption of Nicotine-Free Generation (NFG) regulations in North Reading.

Hearing dates are as follows:

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 7 p.m., North Reading High School Distance Learning Lab

Daytime hearing TBD

Thursday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m., North Reading High School Distance Learning Lab

As you may know, NFG regulations set a date certain after which no one born can purchase nicotine products rather than the current system of a rolling date based on birthdate. For example, if NFG regulations are put in place on Jan. 1, 2026, no one born after Jan. 1, 2005 would ever be permitted to purchase nicotine products. This does NOT impact anyone who already has the right to purchase these products and allows retailers to adapt slowly, as the ban only affects the very small percentage of the population born after the regulation date who might have begun purchasing nicotine at age 21 or older.

To date, NFG regulations are in effect in 17 Massachusetts cities and towns, covering a population of more than 500,000 Massachusetts residents. In Brookline, where NFG was first enacted some five years ago, no retailer selling nicotine has gone out of business. The Massachusetts legislature is also considering adopting NFG statewide.

The Coalition and BOH look forward to input from citizens and the business community as part of the hearing process. If you are unable to attend a hearing in person, please e-mail your comments to northreadingcit@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Who? Jen and Gary as chairs