

For Immediate Release
January 22, 2024

For More Information:

Florence County Health Department
akalkofen@florencecountywi.gov
715-528-4837

Tobacco Quit Line Offers Eight Weeks of Free Medications

Free meds quadrupled in time for New Years Resolutions

Florence, WI. — The Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line is offering more free medications for all Wisconsinites who want to rethink their tobacco use. The Quit Line has long sent a free two-week starter kit of nicotine patches, lozenges, or gum for eligible tobacco users. But beginning January 1, the Quit Line will offer eight weeks of free medication to support New Year’s resolutions. The offer is available for a limited time only.

People can register for confidential Quit Line services 24/7 in any of three ways: call 800-QUIT-NOW ([800-784-8669](tel:800-784-8669)), text READY to 34191, or visit WiQuitLine.org.

“Now’s the perfect time to think about changing your relationship with tobacco,” said Ally Kalkofen, PHN, Florence County Health Department. “You can reach out to the Quit Line and go at your own pace.”

Expert quit coaches invite people who smoke, vape, or chew tobacco to think about quitting or changing their tobacco use. They develop an individualized plan to support the person to reach their goals on their own timeline. “Our coaches are friendly, welcoming, and don’t judge,” said Ally Kalkofen, PHN.

The Quit Line offers tips for changing tobacco use, such as:

- Consider asking people not to smoke or vape around you because it’s a trigger for urges.
- Alcohol can trigger your urge to smoke or vape, so avoid it.
- Drink water. It can help get you through urges.
- Schedule fun things to keep your mind off tobacco.
- Keep your hands and mouth busy. Try carrots, straws, pretzel sticks, or gum.
- Take deep breaths. You’d do so while smoking; now take healthy breaths without the negativity.
- Exercise. Schedule walks with a friend.
- Reduce stress—take a warm bath, get more sleep.
- Remind yourself that cravings will soon pass.
- Remind yourself why you are changing your tobacco use.
- Plan a trip with the money you’ll save by smoking or vaping less.

###

For The Editor:

Florence County Health Department based in **Florence, Wisconsin**, is a local **health department** that works to reduce the burden of commercial tobacco and nicotine on individuals, families, and communities. The organization works for systems change and helps prevent and control the use of commercial tobacco and nicotine throughout Florence County. To learn more, or to get involved, please visit <https://florencewipublichealth.com/index.htm> or follow us on **Facebook and Instagram**. A full list of free statewide quit resources can be found at the [Wisconsin Tobacco Prevention and Control Program website](#).