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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michigan's Smoke-Free Air Law to Take Effect May 1, 2010

Kingsford and Iron River, MI, March 24, 2010 - On May 1, 2010, Michigan residents and visitors will be protected from exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke in all restaurants, bars and businesses (including hotels and motels), thanks to the Dr. Ron Davis Smoke-free Air Law.

Michigan's smoke-free air law was passed by the Michigan legislature and signed by the Governor in Dec 2009, with an effective date of May 1, 2010.

The law requires all businesses, including restaurants and bars to be smoke-free effective May 1, 2010. Smoking is also banned in enclosed areas of hotels, motels, and inns. Smoking is permitted in: 1) cigar bars that meet specific requirements; 2) tobacco specialty shops that meet specific requirements; 3) private offices where only one person is the employee; and 4) gaming floors of Detroit's casinos.

The Michigan Department of Community Health's website will soon have tools available for businesses to prepare for the law and tobacco dependence treatment information for citizens. Starting May 1, residents can also go to the website for information on how to report a violation of the law.

Clean air is fundamental to good health. The public health and wellbeing of workers and customers alike is the best reason for state government to ensure smoke-free businesses, including restaurants and bars. Smoke-free air is good for Michigan residents, workers and visitors - and now - Michigan is serving smoke-free air.

For more information about the law please visit the Michigan Department of Community Health's website at www.michigan.gov/mdch.

To learn more about quitting smoking please call the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department at 779-7234 or call the Michigan Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

Local businesses can call Dickinson County Healthcare System at 776-5918 to help employees quit smoking. Respiratory therapists, trained in tobacco cessation, can offer the American Lung Association's Freedom from Smoking course. This course can also be coordinated on-site if there is enough interest.

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