

## New York bans e-cigarettes in public places

NEW YORK, USA: New York City has voted to extend its strict smoking ban to electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), barring them from bars, restaurants, parks, beaches and other public places.



The use of e-cigarettes has been banned in all public places in New York as the city clamps down further on smokers. Image: Wiki Images

"The bill, approved is expected to be signed into law by Mayor Michael Bloomberg in the coming days and will then come into effect after 180 days," his spokesman said.

E-cigarettes are battery-powered electronic devices and deliver doses of nicotine and other additives via vapour. They are sold as a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes and can be used to help conventional smokers break their addiction.

New York already has some of the strictest non-smoking legislation in the world. Last month it voted to outlaw the sale of cigarettes or tobacco to anyone under 21.

Smoking traditional tobacco products is already forbidden in bars, restaurants, parks, public spaces and beaches.

Taxes on cigarettes are also the highest in the United States at US\$5.85 per pack, which sets the price of pack at around about US\$12.

The effects of New York City's tough anti-smoking stance has seen declining numbers of adult smokers, slipping from 21.5% in 2002 to 14.8% in 2011.

Source: AFP via I-Net Bridge