

Denver Department of Public Health and Environment (DDPHE) Tobacco Compliance and Enforcement Program

Program Overview

The Division of Community & Behavioral Health within the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE) oversees the Local Tobacco Compliance and Enforcement Program. The objective of this program is to address the illegal sale of tobacco products with the goal of keeping these harmful and highly addictive products out of the hands of Denver’s youth. To this end, the Tobacco Program Supervisor monitors Undercover Buy (UB) inspections conducted by Local Tobacco Investigators and Youth Operatives. As diagrammed below, the field team conducts 2-4 UB inspections of every Retail Tobacco Store (RTS) in a 12-month period, documents evidence of violations, issues enforcement orders based on a defined Fine Schedule and provides outreach and education, both virtually and in-person.

UNDERCOVER BUY (UB) INSPECTION ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please note that Retail Tobacco Stores (RTS) are not notified during UB inspections. Youth operatives and the investigator will not identify themselves unless required for safety or for other reasons at the investigator’s discretion. Citations are not issued to employees or at the time of the violation. All violations are reviewed by the Tobacco Program Supervisor to ensure the inspection was conducted accurately, fines are administered in accordance with the Tobacco Program fine schedule, and that any citations issued to the RTS comply with DDPHE written policy

