Why this law is important:

- 95 percent of smokers begin by age 21. If a young person can make it past 21 without using tobacco, the odds are they will never start.
- Currently, 29% of high schools seniors in Cook County use tobacco products. If we don’t reduce youth tobacco use, it will cost our community billions in healthcare costs and lives lost.
- Increasing the minimum legal sales age of tobacco to 21 keeps legal tobacco purchases out of our high schools.
- 7 out of 10 adults in suburban Cook County support Tobacco 21.

What retailers need to know to stay in compliance with this Cook County Ordinance:

- All licensed tobacco retailers in unincorporated Cook County must comply with the Cook County Ordinance, effective June 1, 2019
- No retailer may sell or distribute tobacco products to any person under 21 years of age. (§54.305, a1)
- Each retailer shall request and examine the photographic identification of any person purchasing tobacco products so as to verify the purchaser is over 21 years of age. (§54.305, a2)
- Every retailer of tobacco products shall place and maintain, in legible condition, at each point of sale of tobacco products to consumers, a sign stating (§54.305, f):
  "Warning: It is a Violation of the Law For Cigarettes Or Other Tobacco Products To Be Sold To Any Person Under The Age of 21."
- The sign shall not be less than eight inches by 11 inches in size. The text of such printed card shall be in red letters on a white background, said letters to be at least one inch high.

How the Ordinance will be enforced:
The Cook County Department of Public Health will conduct random, unannounced inspections at locations where tobacco products are sold to ensure compliance with this Ordinance. (§54.303, b1)

1. For a first violation, an administrative penalty of $250.00;
2. For a second violation, occurring after a final determination of liability for a first violation, and within a 12-month period, an administrative penalty of $500.00 and a suspension of the license of the retail tobacco dealer for 30 days;
3. For a third violation, occurring after a final determination of liability for a second violation and within a 12-month period, an administrative penalty of $1,000.00 and a revocation of the license of the retail tobacco dealer for one year.