



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YMCA Children now Playing in Tobacco-Free Environments

West Chester, PA - The Chester County Health Department recognizes the YMCA of Brandywine Valley for becoming 100 percent tobacco-free. The YMCA is eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke for more than 55,000 members at all branch locations: Brandywine, Jennersville, Kennett, Octorara, West Chester and the Oscar Lasko Youth Program Center.

The YMCA of Brandywine Valley was motivated to go smoke-free by the [Young Lungs at Play \(YLAP\)](#), a statewide initiative that is working to create 100 percent tobacco-free environments for the youth of Pennsylvania. YLAP fits with the YMCA mission of “strengthening the foundations of our community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.”

The YMCA has posted 28 YLAP signs at their locations to inform patrons and employees of this important change.

Margaret Rivello, County Health Director said, “We’re excited to partner with the YMCA of Brandywine Valley to help create an environment for children and families that supports healthy living.”

Secondhand smoke exposes children to more than 250 dangerous chemicals, and is responsible for over 1,000,000 illnesses (including colds and asthma) in children each year. Cigarette butts are also the most littered item in the world and creating a tobacco-free environment for kids eliminates their presence in the beautiful areas where our children play.

For more information on YLAP and how to make your local parks and playgrounds tobacco-free, contact the [Chester County Health Department](#).



Photo left: Local children stand in front of the newly installed sign at the Jennersville YMCA