

# Within 20 Minutes After Quitting



**Within 20 minutes after you smoke that last cigarette, your body begins a series of changes that continues for years.**

## **20 Minutes After Quitting**

- Your heart rate drops to a normal level

## **12 to 24 Hours After Quitting**

- The carbon monoxide level in your blood drops to normal
- The risk of heart attack is significantly reduced

## **2 to 3 Weeks After Quitting**

- Your risk of having a heart attack begins to drop
- Your lung function begins to improve

## **1 to 9 Months After Quitting**

- Your coughing and shortness of breath decrease

## **1 Year After Quitting**

- Your added risk of coronary heart disease is half that of a smoker's

## **5 to 15 Years After Quitting**

- Your risk of having a stroke is reduced to that of a nonsmoker's
- Your risk of getting cancer of the mouth, throat, or esophagus is half that of a smoker's

## **10 Years After Quitting**

- Your risk of dying from lung cancer is about half that of a smoker's
- Your risk of getting bladder cancer is half that of a smoker's
- Your risk of getting cervical cancer or cancer of the larynx, kidney or pancreas decreases

## **15 Years After Quitting**

- Your risk of coronary heart disease is the same as that of a nonsmoker



For more information, visit:  
[sentarahealthplans.com/quitsmoking](https://sentarahealthplans.com/quitsmoking)



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Source: American Lung Association, 2022