

Local Health Improvement Coalition

Chronic Disease Prevention & Wellness Group

ANNUAL LHIC MEETING UPDATE



YEAR ONE

- Meet every other month
- Work on each selected topic (Tobacco, Healthy Eating & Active Living, Cancer) over the course of a few months

HEALTH LITERACY

- Will be worked into all projects

TOBACCO/ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES

- First topic selected by the CDPW group
- Focuses on youth electronic smoking device use (use of Juuls, vapes, other devices)

Recap!

Updates About Tobacco Portion

**PROGRESS SINCE
LAST ANNUAL
LHIC**

HCPS POLICY CHANGE

HCPS updated their policy to include electronic smoking devices.

OFFENDERS EDUCATION

Education has moved to an online platform.

ILLNESSES REPORTED

35 individuals in Maryland have developed lung illnesses after using e-cigarettes. This number continues to grow.

MDH sent out press release



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Aug. 28, 2019

Media Contact

Deidre McCabe, Director, Office of Communications, 410-767-3536 or
Maureen Regan, Deputy Director, Office of Communications, 410-767-8649

Maryland Department of Health investigating cases of severe lung illness in people using e-cigarettes

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On August 28, 2019, MDH sent out a media release that they are **investigating cases of severe lung illness in people using e-cigarettes.**

Cases of Vaping-Associated Lung Injury (as of October 15, 2019): 35

Patients report using e-cigarettes or vaping in the weeks or months prior to the onset of symptoms. Respiratory symptoms reported include: shortness of breath, chest pain, pain on breathing, wheezing, coughing, and coughing up blood. Other symptoms reported by many patients include: fever, chills, nausea, weight loss, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain.

Tobacco

TOBACCO POSITION PAPER

With the recent events of individuals in Maryland who have used electronic cigarettes being diagnosed with lung illnesses, it is now a crucial time to update the original Tobacco Workgroup's position paper on electronic smoking devices.

A vaping subgroup was created to work on this project.

Original Tobacco Position Paper from 2014

The Harford County Local Health Improvement Coalition Tobacco Workgroup's Policy Recommendations Regarding E-Cigarettes

With the rise in popularity of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and their ready availability, the Harford County Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC) Tobacco Workgroup has drafted this position paper to help clarify its views.

Next Steps

- Update Position Paper
 - A draft has been created and was presented to the Board of Health on October 15, 2019
- Work on creating a media literacy project for HCPS students
- Next topic: Healthy Eating and Active Living

DRAFT Position Statement Regarding Vaping and the Use of Electronic Smoking Devices (ESD)

**Prepared by the Harford County Local Health Improvement Coalition
Chronic Disease Prevention & Wellness Workgroup
October 2019**

Vaping has become an epidemic, threatening the health and lives of the community. Presented is the Harford County Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC) Chronic Disease Prevention and Wellness Workgroup position statement recommending that **all persons should refrain from vaping or using electronic smoking devices, particularly those containing THC, the active component of marijuana.**

In Brief

- **Electronic smoking devices (ESDs) contain harmful substances and should be avoided.** ESDs are tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, vapes, pod devices such as JUUL®, e-liquids, and component parts and accessories.¹ Some of these devices have contributed to severe lung illness and sudden death, resulting in a multi-state outbreak of disease. The causative agent has not yet been identified. Illnesses have been reported in people using cannabis products with cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) as well as nicotine-containing products.²
- **ESDs pose a safety risk for users and can cause severe, unintended injuries.** E-cigarettes can accidentally explode, causing severe burns, injuries, and even death. In addition, the compound is highly toxic and users have been poisoned by swallowing, breathing, or absorbing the liquid from e-cigarettes through the skin and eyes.³
- **There is an especially high risk for teens and young adults as nicotine can harm brain development.** More specifically, nicotine damages parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood, and impulse control.⁴ Nicotine can also affect the way a new memory or skill is learned by disrupting the synapses forming in the brain during this process.⁵ Since teens and young adults are using nicotine while they are young, they are also more likely to have an addiction to other drugs in the future.⁴
 - **It is now illegal to sell ESDs to people under the age of 21 in the state of Maryland,** due to these health risks in teens and young adults. Maryland's Tobacco 21 law, effective October 1, 2019, makes it illegal to sell all tobacco products including electronic smoking devices to individuals under age 21.¹

Thank you!

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, November 18th, 2019

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Harford Community College Chesapeake Center



HARFORD COUNTY
— LHIC —