

VAPING – WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW



Vaping has become a source of growing unease for parents and public-health officials over the past year amid signs that underage use is surging. A U.S. government survey of youth tobacco use released early this year showed 3.6 million school-age children vaped in 2018. Recently, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said the number jumped to 5 million, calling it an “alarming” trend. Vaping has been linked to a mysterious acute lung ailment that’s spread across multiple states, including right here in our own State of Maine.

On September 20, 2019, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services along with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention issued Public Health Advisory of High Priority, reporting a case of lung illness related to E-Cigarette Use. The purpose of the advisory is to alert clinicians to the first case in Maine of **severe** pulmonary disease linked to e-cigarette product use, or “vaping.”

As of September 20, 2019 an alarming 530 possible cases of severe lung illness associated with vaping have been reported in 39 states and one U.S. territory since June 28, 2019. Seven deaths in six states have been attributed to vaping-related illnesses.

The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) issued a statement on their website, www.fda.gov, stating, “Both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease control and Prevention

are working tirelessly to investigate the distressing incidents of severe respiratory illness associated with the use of vaping products.”



E-cigarette’s were originally viewed as a possible way to help adult smokers quit. Juul Labs, Inc., which has the biggest share of the U.S. market for e-cigarettes, is one of the country’s most richly valued closely held startups. Marlboro maker Altria Group, Inc. last year invested about 13 billion in Juul at a valuation of approximately \$35 billion.

Juul’s marketing tactics have drawn growing scrutiny from regulators and lawmakers. The FDA sent Juul a warning letter that said the agency had determined that the company has marketed its products as less risky than cigarettes without gaining the agency’s approval. A Juul representative said that the company was reviewing the letter and would cooperate with the agency.

Around the US this summer, doctors have seen hundreds of cases where patients – often youthful, previously healthy adults –have shown up in the emergency department, suddenly stricken with dangerous respiratory

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damage. The CDC has said anyone who uses a vape device should consider stopping while public health officials investigate the cause of condition.

Maine CDC is telling the public that lung illnesses can include some of the following symptoms; cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, and abdominal pain. The CDC is advising anyone who vapes and have symptoms of lung illness, to see your health care provider.

via Bloomberg News – MCDC- FDA

www.pressherald.com/2019/09/20/first-case-of-vape-related-lung-disease-reported-in-maine/

If you, or someone you know, has been injured or suspects an injury due to vaping, call us at 207-467-9146.