



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Public Health Administration Office

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon
Health
Authority

800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, Oregon, 97232-2187

Date: September 26, 2019

To: Oregon Healthcare Providers,
Infection Preventionists, Local
Health Departments, and Tribal
Health Agencies

From: Dean Sidelinger, MD, MEd
State Health Officer
Oregon Public Health Division

Re: **Update on multi-state outbreak of vaping-associated pulmonary illnesses**

Colleagues:

The national outbreak of severe pulmonary illnesses associated with vaping continues to evolve, and the investigation is ongoing. Today we are reporting a second death in Oregon; this patient was previously included in our most recent case total, which remains at 5 cases. **In light of the growing number of cases and the ongoing investigation to determine the cause, OHA is warning all Oregonians not to use vaping products or e-cigarettes.**

As of September 26, CDC reported 805 cases from 46 states and 1 territory, including 12 deaths (this does not include the most recent fatality in Oregon).

No specific vaping product or ingredient has yet been definitively identified as a cause of the illnesses; FDA's Forensic Chemistry Center is testing vaping products from cases around the US to determine which specific products or ingredients may be the cause. All cases in Oregon reported vaping cannabis products.

Advise patients not to vape. If they smoke or vape, we urge them to quit now. Free help is available at 1-888-QUIT-NOW or www.quitnow.net/oregon, including text-to-quit resources. Those who want to quit cannabis can call 1-800-662-HELP. Switching to combustible products is not safer.

We still need your help identifying cases. If you see cases of severe pulmonary illness without an alternate explanation, please ask about vaping of any substance in the 90 days before illness onset. Please report to Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division immediately any case of illness meeting all of the following criteria: hospitalized patient; history of vaping of any substance in the preceding 90 days; and radiographic finding of pulmonary infiltrates (opacities on chest x-ray or ground-glass appearance on chest CT).

OHA is collecting leftover used vaping products and devices from patients who are willing to surrender them for FDA testing. Please encourage patients and their families to retain any vaping materials that were used preceding the patient's symptom onset. OHA will coordinate pickup and transfer of vaping materials for testing by FDA.

Call 971-673-1111 (option 3) to report cases. We will keep you apprised of major developments in this evolving situation. Thank you for your assistance as we work to protect the health of Oregonians.