



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Liquor Control Commission

9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd.

Portland, Oregon 97222-7355

503-872-5000

800-452-6522

www.oregon.gov/olcc

Dear Licensees,

The national vaping respiratory illness crisis has hit close to home. The Oregon Health Authority is investigating two reported cases of this illness in our state, including one fatality.

Led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public health investigators across the country are trying to determine potential causes for this outbreak and potentially including additives contained in nicotine and THC oil cartridges. One element of investigators' focus is Vitamin E additives.

While there is nothing conclusive at this point, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission is concerned about the potential risk of serious health consequences to Oregon consumers unknowingly exposed to Vitamin E additives contained in vaping cartridges produced in, and sold at retail stores, in the OLCC regulated market.

As of this time the OLCC has not knowingly approved any marijuana product containing Vitamin E oil, "tocopheryl acetate" or "alpha-tocopherol." OLCC recreational marijuana licensees are required to list all ingredients on their label. However we are asking if licensees have products with these ingredients in the OLCC market, and have not previously disclosed them, to do so now to help us meet our obligation to protect public safety.

Now is the time to report any undisclosed additives so the OLCC and our retailers can identify these products, remove them from sale, and prevent further potentially dangerous consumption.

Continuing knowledge of unreported Vitamin E in vape products could lead to serious legal complications. More importantly, sharing this information is the right thing to do as a responsible cannabis industry member.

In addition, the OLCC is asking all retailers to review the vape cartridges and vaping devices available for consumer sale. Some OLCC licensed retailers have notified us they are already curtailing the sale of vape products with additives. Although the OLCC has no specialized knowledge about additive risks that may have contributed to the recent outbreak of respiratory illness, avoiding unnecessary risk to the health of consumers is our primary goal.

Undertaking such a review of vaping products is considered a best practice at this time of uncertainty. If retailers think product labels lack clarity they should consider asking product manufacturers to provide additional information. And while protection of customers is the primary reason for this review, retailers should be evaluating business risk and related liabilities.

To review, the OLCC is asking licensees to take these **voluntary** steps:

- **Processors:** If you have introduced for sale in the OLCC recreational marijuana system products containing Vitamin E oil, "tocopheryl acetate" or "alpha-tocopherol", set aside those products and notify me personally by email at: steven.marks@oregon.gov



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- **Retailers:** Review your vaping products and for those containing additives that may be of public concern, consider acquiring more detailed information about the included additives from the product manufacturer.
- **Retailers:** Download and post this consumer advisory bulletin based on information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which can be found on the OLCC Recreational Marijuana website.

We all have a shared responsibility to protect Oregon consumers and the integrity of Oregon's regulated marijuana market.

We appreciate your responsiveness to this communication and the OLCC will be keep you informed of new developments.

Steve Marks
Executive Director
Oregon Liquor Control Commission