



Date: August 23, 2019
To: Local Media
From: Peter Schade, MPH, RS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vaping is Linked to Severe Pulmonary Disease in Youth

Multiple states across the country have reported clusters of patients experiencing severe respiratory disease requiring hospitalization, which in some instances has required respiratory support, after using e-cigarette or vapor products. As of August 21, 2019, 153 possible cases have been reported across 16 states, many of whom are teens or young adults.

Patients have reported vaping in the weeks to months prior to illness. An investigation has been initiated with interviews of patients to further study the issue. At this time, it is unknown what product(s) or chemicals may be linked to these illnesses.

Although there have not been any suspected cases in Erie County, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has received six reports of patients experiencing serious respiratory symptoms following e-cigarette or vaping product use in Ohio. Those reports are being investigated. ODH is requesting health care providers to report suspected cases to their local health department.

The Erie County Health Department stresses that e-cigarettes are dangerous to your health. E-cigarettes often contain more nicotine than traditional cigarettes and are particularly harmful to teens and young adults as they increase the likelihood of pulmonary disease and lifelong addiction to nicotine. We urge parents, teachers, and adults to speak to youth about the dangers of e-cigarettes and vapor products.

For information on tobacco cessation services contact:

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