

Re: Potential Vaping Health Alert

To Whom It May Concern:

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is working with local health departments to investigate severe respiratory illness among adolescents in Wisconsin and Illinois. The individuals have reported vaping in the weeks and months before experiencing symptoms of cough and difficulty breathing. Symptoms have led to hospitalization of affected adolescents(see attached IDPH press release). The Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center is working to educate retailers, schools, parents, and law enforcement on this potential health threat.

According to the 2018 Illinois Youth Survey, vaping among Illinois youth increased by over 60% and among Lake County youth by over 65% since 2016. To prevent youth access, the Illinois legislature passed the Tobacco 21 law, effective July 1, 2019. This law prohibits the sale of any tobacco product, vaping device or vaping liquid to anyone under the age of 21. Retailers, municipal leaders, and law enforcement have all received communication regarding this new law.

Please share the attached memo with your health office, school administration, and staff. Attached is a fact sheet on vaping and marijuana for your consideration; please share with staff and parents. If you would like additional resources, please contact Tobacco Free Lake County at (847) 377-8090.

If you know or learn of anyone who has fallen ill with a respiratory illness after vaping, please contact the Communicable Diseases Program at 847-377-8130.

Thank you,



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