

Mysterious Vaping Injuries Sweeping the United States.

What do we know?

Hundreds of people have been sickened over the last year with a vaping related lung disease. As of October 8th, 2019, according to the CDC 1299 cases of lung injury associated with e-cigarette use or vaping has been reported from every state except Alaska, and at least 26 people are dead from over 21 states. The median age of those falling ill from vaping is 24 years old and 80% of all patients are under the age of 35 years old.

Most of the patients reported a history of using THC containing products. National and State findings suggest that the THC products were obtained off the street or through informal sources. These products are linked to the bulk of the reported CDC cases. But in some cases, only nicotine-containing products were reported as used by some of the patients. Which leads the CDC to believe that they cannot rule out nicotine-only products and THC contaminated nicotine products as possible causes for lung related diseases.

Symptoms of lung injury include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Fever
- Weight loss

The CDC state that if you have recently used an e-cigarette, or vaping, products and develop any of these symptoms to see a healthcare provider immediately as this lung related disease has resulted in fatalities.

Several product sources are under investigation and this outbreak maybe caused for many sources. The chemical causing the lung related diseases is not known at this time.

The CDC is currently advising to not use any THC products and nicotine products in conjunction with e-cigarettes or vaping use. They also advice to not buy any product

off the street or through an informal source. Individuals should not modify manufacturers products.

What the CDC is doing currently:

- Working with other agencies 24/7 to identify commonalities between cases and identify threatening chemicals. They are committed to identifying and defining the risk factors and cause for the lung diseases associated with e-cigarettes and vaping.
- They are detecting and tracking cases across the U.S.
- Establishing lab procedures and helping assist state local and clinic with their public health investigations and patient care.
- Updating their website reported in the link below with any new information for the public.
- And much more

For more information see the below links and weekly updates can be viewed on the CDC website. This is an on-going public health threat and an open investigation.

Also see The Peoria Tribes Environmental Departments July Article: *“The New Fear: The Marketing of E-Cigarette Nicotine Products and the Surge in Youth Smoking”* for more information about vaping devices, marketing tactics, e-juices, Juuling and nicotine related products.

Sources:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2019/09/07/what-we-know-about-mysterious-vaping-linked-illnesses-deaths/>

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html#latest-outbreak-information

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease/need-to-know/index.html#symptoms

<https://www.peoriatribe.com/wp-content/uploads/Vaping-Article-1.pdf>