

FLAVORED VAPING PRODUCTS BANNED IN MICHIGAN

September 4, 2019 – On Tuesday, September 3, 2019, Governor Gretchen Whitmer ordered Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to issue emergency rules to ban the sale of flavored vaping products in retail stores and online, making Michigan the first state in the nation to ban flavored vaping products. Also banned is any misleading marketing of vaping products, including the use of terms like “clean,” “safe,” and “healthy” that perpetuate beliefs that these products are harmless. The Michigan Department of Transportation is also ordered by the Governor to enforce an existing statute to prohibit the advertising of vapor products on billboards.

Kevin Hughes, Health Officer for District Health Department #10 (DHD#10), supports the Governor’s swift actions regarding vaping and e-cigarette products. “With the increase in vaping-related respiratory illnesses in Michigan, and across the country, this prompt legislation is necessary to protect our youth from the health risks associated the use of e-cigarettes and vaping,” stated Hughes.

According to a recent press release from the Governor’s office, e-cigarette use spiked 78% among high school students and 48% among middle school students from 2017 to 2018. In 2018, more than 3.6 million U.S. kids, including 1 in 5 high school students and 1 in 20 middle school students were regular users. These rates are still climbing, likely fueled by the availability of flavors akin to apple juice, bubble gum, and Nerds.

DHD#10’s Medical Director, Dr. Jennifer Morse, adds, “Flavors make vaping more attractive to kids and some flavored e-cigarettes, particularly those with cinnamon, vanilla, fruit, popcorn, caramel, and coffee flavors, have been found to be more irritating and toxic to our airways. With over 200 illnesses and one death associated to vaping identified so far, with no one single common factor other than vaping identified, all vaping with or without flavored liquids should be seen as dangerous.”

Learn more about [emerging tobacco products](#) from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also provides helpful information on [electronic cigarettes](#).

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About DHD #10

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is Michigan's largest geographical health department, mandated to promote and protect the public from unsafe and hazardous conditions and provide methods of promoting good health and disease prevention. Some of the vital programs provided by DHD #10 include Immunizations, Infectious Disease Control, STI Testing and Counseling, WIC, Maternal Infant Health Program, Healthy Families Northern Michigan, Children's Special Health Services, Hearing and Vision Screening, Family Planning, Cancer Screening, Worksite Wellness, Smoking



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Cessation, Substance Use Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental Health Services. DHD #10 serves Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit www.dhd10.org.