



DCHHS
Safe families, healthy lives
Dallas County Health and Human Services



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Continued Reports of Lung Injury Associated with E-cigarette Use

DALLAS (September 25, 2019) – As of September 25, 2019, Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) has received reports from hospitals in Dallas of 30 confirmed or probable cases of patients with severe lung injury associated with use of e-cigarette products. Five of these individuals were recently hospitalized within the past week. About half of cases have been under 21 years of age, and range from 13 to 44 years of age. Eleven patients have been critically ill and required mechanical ventilation.

“The ongoing reports are highly concerning and the severity of many of these illnesses has been tragic,” said Dr. Philip Huang, DCHHS Director. “I cannot emphasize enough that e-cigarettes should not be used by youth, young adults, pregnant women, or adults who do not currently use tobacco products—regardless of this investigation.”

No specific vaping product or substance has yet been linked to all cases reported nationally. DCHHS is continuing to work closely with state and federal agencies to collect information as part of the multistate investigation into the cause of these illnesses. While this investigation is ongoing, anyone who is concerned about health risks of e-cigarette products should consider refraining from using these products.

CDC recommends that anyone who has recently used an e-cigarette or vaping product and develops symptoms of shortness of breath or chest pain should promptly see a healthcare provider. Parents are urged to be aware that many cases have involved teenagers and young adults.

Individuals with questions about harmful effects from e-cigarette products can contact the local Poison Control center at 1-800-222-1222.

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