

Electronic Cigarettes Tip Sheet

E-cigarettes are a rapidly emerging product. These devices, also known as “e-cigs” and “vape pens,” recognized under brand names such as Juul, Blu and Halo, are delivery systems for nicotine, flavorings, and other additives in liquid form. The battery-powered device heats the liquid into an aerosol that the user inhales. The vapor exhaled can be odorless. E-cigarettes are now the most commonly used tobacco product among youth and come with many concerns.

- The brain is not fully developed until the age 25. This puts youth and young adults at risk for long-term, long-lasting effects when they expose their developing brains to nicotine and other harmful chemicals. These risks include nicotine addiction, mood disorders, and permanent lowering of impulse control.
- E-cigarette use among youth and young adults is strongly linked to the use of other tobacco products, such as traditional cigarettes, cigars, hookah, and smokeless tobacco.
- Some evidence suggests that e-cigarette use is linked to use of alcohol and other substances such as marijuana. E-cigarette products can be used to deliver other drugs including marijuana.
- These devices can explode and cause burns and projectile injuries from poor quality batteries, stored improperly or when modified by the user.
- Due to the method of vaping, including frequency of puffing, depth of inhalation, and length of the vaping session, users may absorb higher concentrations of the same toxins found in cigarette smoke such as: propylene glycol, vegetable glycerin, acrolein and benzoic acid.

Informing teens of the dangers of nicotine and other inhaled chemicals helps them make an educated decision to say “no” to e-cigarettes and other tobacco products. To do that, we have to understand the dangers ourselves. The Surgeon General has created a great resource for parents, *Talk with Your Teen About E-cigarettes: A Tip Sheet for Parents*. Here are just a few of those tips:

Before the talk get credible information about e-cigarettes and young people. Avoid criticism and encourage an open dialogue. Set a positive example by being tobacco-free.

Start the conversation in a natural way to increase the likelihood that your teen will listen. Rather than saying “we need to talk,” you might ask your teen what he or she thinks about a situation you witness together. Resist giving a lecture, criticism or judgment of their friends or parents.

Keep the conversation going even if you feel like they aren’t listening, they really are. The Partnership at Drugfree.org reports youth who learn about the risks of drugs or alcohol from their parents are 50% less likely to use drugs or alcohol than those who do not.

Resources Click each resource for more information

- Surgeon General
- Food and Drug Administration
- National Institute on Drug Abuse
- The Power of Choice
- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- The Center for Tobacco Policy and Organizing
- Vaping and E-cigarette Podcast

Tips To Recognize Vaping



Odor: Unlike traditional cigarettes, e-cigarettes do not have a pungent smell. E-liquids come in a wide variety of flavors such as mint, fruit punch, and vanilla.

Unfamiliar devices: E-cigarettes were first invented to be disposable and look like traditional cigarettes. They have now evolved and often resemble pens, cell phone cases and the most commonly found shape USB drives, such as the JUUL. The easiest way to spot these devices is to look for holes (mouthpiece).

Batteries and Chargers: These devices have a battery component and need to be charged. Pay attention to unfamiliar chargers or batteries laying around.

Increased thirstiness: Propylene Glycol (PG), the main substance in e-cigarettes is a hygroscopic substance, meaning it binds or holds water. The PG in e-liquid will extract water from your mouth, nose & eyes which can lead to dehydration.

Metallic wires and cotton wicks: If you find organic cotton, empty plastic vials or thin metallic coils lying in your child's room, this could also be a red flag.

For more information visit ThePowerofChoice.Info

The Power of Choice is a collaborative project led by 360 Youth Services in District 203 and 204 middle and high schools increasing the number of students making healthy choices regarding substance use.