Hot Topics

CDC, FDA and State Health Departments Investigate Vaping-related Lung Illness

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed that between June 28 and August 20, 2019, 193 potential cases of vaping-related severe lung illness have been reported, including one death. Cases span 22 states with additional states pending verification. According to a CDC press release, the “FDA encourages the public to submit detailed reports of any unexpected tobacco- or e-cigarette-related health or product issues to the FDA via the online Safety Reporting Portal,” and to state health departments. CDC, FDA and state health departments are all working together to gather information. To date, investigators have not found a common link other than vaping. AAP News reports that according to Brian King, PhD, MPH, deputy director of research translation in the CDC Office on Smoking and Health, “pulmonary illnesses linked to e-cigarettes may have been occurring previously, but without a trend being detected.” In their Clinical Action communication sent to public health officials on August 2nd, the CDC provides recommendations for clinicians in gathering information and reporting to local/state and the FDA.

Dr. King states, “There’s a variety of harmful ingredients that have been identified in e-cigarette aerosol” and that although there has been no direct link between the cluster of severe lung illnesses and those ingredients “we do know that e-cigarette aerosol is not harmless.”

For more information on e-cigarettes, visit the AAP Richmond Center website, and the CDC Office on Smoking and Health e-cigarette information website.
From the AAP Richmond Center

2019 AAP National Conference & Exhibition – Register Now!
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) invites you to the 2019 National Conference & Exhibition (NCE), held October 25 through 29 in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and Hilton Riverside New Orleans. This year’s theme is “joie de vivre” - “joy of living.” Don’t miss the largest pediatric-focused educational and networking event of the year! Register by September 13 to save with advance pricing!

Tobacco Control Programs at NCE: Be sure to block your calendar to attend programs offered by the AAP Section on Tobacco Control at this year’s NCE in New Orleans, including:

AAP Section on Tobacco Control Program
Tobacco: The Unrecognized Health Disparity and Actionable Steps to Address It
Session H3138 - Sunday, October 27
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Room 238-239
This program will highlight tobacco as an unrecognized health disparity, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and disease in certain populations including minorities, children and people of low socioeconomic background. Three international experts will give presentations, and an interactive panel discussion with these experts will follow. Next, the winners of the Section on Tobacco Control’s annual call for Trainee Tobacco Champions will be highlighted, and the program will conclude with top abstract presentations and a poster session highlighting critical research and quality improvement programs to advance tobacco cessation efforts in health systems and communities.

Agenda
Moderated by Rachel Boykan, MD, FAAP, Section Program Chair
1:00 pm – Welcome (Presented by Susan Walley, MD, CCTS, FAAP, Section Chair)
1:10 pm – Highlighting Health Disparities: Menthol, African Americans and Smoking (Presented by Phillip Gardiner, DrPH)
1:55 pm – Update on E-cigarette and Vaping (Presented by Sharon McGrath-Morrow, MD, MBA, FAAP)
2:40 pm – Protecting Children from Addiction: Tobacco 21 (Presented by Lester Hartman, MD, MPH, FAAP)
3:25 pm – Break
3:30 pm – Tobacco Trainee Awards
3:40 pm – Panel Discussion Advocacy and You (Paneled by Phillip Gardiner, DrPH; Lester Hartman, MD, MPH, FAAP; Sharon McGrath-Morrow, MD, MBA, FAAP)
4:10 pm – Top Abstract Presentations
4:25 pm – Poster Session and Reception
5:00 pm – Adjourn

Focused Topic Sessions
Adolescent Brain on Tobacco and Marijuana
Presented by Deepa Camenga, MD, FAAP
Saturday, October 26, 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm (Session F2254) and repeating
Monday, October 28, 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm (Session F4133)

Smoke and Mirrors: E-cigarettes, Vaping, and JUUL
Presented by Deepa Camenga, MD, FAAP
Sunday, October 27, 8:30 am – 9:15 am (Session F3046) and repeating
Monday, October 28, 8:30 am – 9:15 am (Session F4035).

In the News
FDA Proposes Graphic Warning Labels for Cigarette Packages
The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed new warning labels for cigarette packages, which feature graphic pictures and detailed text descriptions of the health harms of tobacco use. In a joint press release with other public health partners, the American Academy of Pediatrics stated, "the new graphic warnings are a dramatic improvement over the current text-only warnings. [...] They are supported by extensive scientific evidence, and they will help the United States catch up to the 120+ countries that have adopted this best-practice strategy to reduce tobacco use." AAP has not yet weighed in on the content of the individual warning labels: FDA is requesting feedback during a 60-day comment period.

New Research from CDC Show Most Adults in Favor of Lowering Nicotine Levels
A new report from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that most US adults – including 8 in 10 current cigarette smokers – are in favor of cigarette makers being required to lower nicotine levels in cigarettes so that they are less addictive. The percent of those who favor reductions in nicotine was high across all assessed categories, including sex, age, income, education, race/ethnicity, and adults who used other types of tobacco products besides cigarettes.

Data for the new report come from the 2018 Summer Styles survey, an online survey of adults in the US aged 18 and older and is available online through the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

FDA Expands Youth E-Cigarette Prevention Campaign
The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products launched a series of new youth e-cigarette prevention television ads to educate kids about the dangers of e-cigarette use. The ads feature Julius Dein, a popular street magician, and are part of “The Real Cost” Youth E-Cigarette Prevention Campaign. FDA also announced plans to continue a collaboration with Scholastic to increase awareness around youth e-cigarette prevention in middle and high schools. This includes proactively mailing a set of posters and distributing new lesson plans and resources for middle school teachers, students, and parents on the dangers of youth e-cigarette use.

More information and links to resources for the new FDA campaign are here.

CDC Evidence Brief on Tobacco Industry-Sponsored School Programs
The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have released a new evidence brief that details the tobacco industry’s history of ineffective school-based tobacco prevention initiatives. The 2012 Surgeon General’s Report, Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults, concluded that tobacco-industry sponsored prevention programs are ineffective and may encourage smoking among young people. Despite this evidence, tobacco and e-cigarette companies, including JUUL Labs, continue to promote school-based prevention initiatives. CDC encourages schools to avoid tobacco industry-sponsored youth prevention programs. Read more.

ACS Annual State Report Reveals Big Tobacco’s Attempts to Co-opt Public Health Policies
The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) recently released its 17th annual “How Do You Measure Up?: A Progress Report on State Legislative Activity to Reduce Cancer Incidence and Mortality.” The report grades individual states and US territories on the strength of evidence-based policies to help prevent and reduce the cancer burden. The grading on tobacco legislation covers tobacco excise taxes, smoke-free laws, tobacco control funding, and Medicaid coverage of tobacco cessation. This year, the report includes a special section examining legislative efforts to raise the legal age of sale for tobacco to 21. It highlights Big Tobacco’s deceptive lobbying efforts, noting that 51 out of the 88 age-of-sale bills introduced in 2019 included provisions that advance tobacco industry interests rather than public health. Detailed state-by-state information and a full copy of the report, including the special section, “Tobacco 21: Promising Policy or a Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing,” are available at fightcancer.org/measure. Read more on the ACS CAN website.

Dr Christina Sadreameli Quoted in NPR Story on Chemicals Found in Vape Juice
Dr. Christina Sadreameli, a spokesperson for the American Lung Association and 2013 New Investigator Awardee with the American Academy of Pediatrics Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence, was quoted in a recent National Public Radio (NPR) article on a study that found irritating compounds can show up in the ‘Vape Juice’ used in e-cigarettes. Dr Sadreameli, also a pediatric pulmonologist and assistant professor of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University, said that the study’s discovery of acetals in e-liquids, along with other findings like it, suggests that there may be long-term consequences for young people who use e-cigarettes. She stated that e-
cigarette manufacturers have long positioned vaping as a far safer alternative to cigarettes, with few health effects, and "this notion [that] it's just water vapor and nicotine and flavorings' is very untrue," she says. "E-cigarette vapor contains a lot of harmful chemicals, heavy metals [and] ultrafine particles." Read the NPR story here.

Resources and Events

Registration is Open for the American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting
November 2-6, 2019
Philadelphia, PA
The American Public Health Association (APHA) 2019 Annual Meeting will be held at the at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. This year's theme is "Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science. For action. For health." Visit the APHA website for information on housing and registration.

2019 WHO Report on Global Tobacco Epidemic Shows High Demand for Support to Quit
The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a new 2019 report on the global tobacco epidemic that shows progress is being made in the fight against tobacco; however, many countries are still not adequately implementing policies that can save lives from tobacco, including helping people quit. This report, the seventh published since 2008, looks at if and how countries are implementing the most effective measures from the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) that are proven to reduce demand for tobacco, including the six MPOWER interventions. This year's report shows 2.4 billion people living in countries now providing comprehensive cessation coverage (2 billion more than in 2007). Only 23 countries, however, are providing the services at the best-practice level, making it the most under-implemented MPOWER measure in terms of number of countries offering full coverage. Read more on the WHO website.

CounterTobacco Evidence Summary: Hookah at the Point of Sale
CounterTobacco released a new evidence summary on hookah that suggests young adults who would otherwise not use tobacco are becoming attracted to smoking hookah and visiting hookah establishments. This same population may also not associate their hookah use with tobacco use and therefore may not be receptive to current anti-tobacco messaging. The summary explores general trends in hookah use among both youth and adults, as well as the tactics used to market hookah at the point of sale and point of purchase. It covers federal, state, and local policies that govern hookah retail sales as well as additional point-of-sale policies that could be implemented to reduce youth access to and use of hookah tobacco. Hookahs (also called narghiles, argilehs, shisha pipes, and hubble-bubbles) are water pipes, consisting of a head, body, water bowl, and hose, used for smoking flavored tobacco or other substances. Read the full evidence summary on CounterTobacco.org.

Please feel free to pass this message along to interested parties. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or submit a news item for consideration in this monthly digest, please send an email request to richmondcenter@aap.org.

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