FDA Issues Final Rule on Graphic Cigarette Warning Labels

On March 17, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published its final graphic cigarette warning labels rule. The rule is a critical step forward in public health efforts to communicate the harms of smoking and encourage tobacco cessation. AAP and our public health partners issued this statement in response shortly after the rule was released. The final rule includes 11 graphic warnings (available online) that highlight the negative health effects of smoking. The warnings will be required to occupy the top 50% of the front and rear panels of cigarette packages and at least 20% of the area at the top of cigarette advertisements. The rule goes into effect on June 18, 2021. The timing of the final rule is a direct result of the AAP’s successful litigation against the FDA for its failure to act on graphic warnings earlier.

From the AAP Richmond Center

AAP Richmond Center Announces 2020 New Investigator Grantee
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Richmond Center is pleased to announce that the 2020 New Investigator Grant has been awarded to Benjamin Wisniewski, MD. These grants are designed to stimulate involvement of pediatricians and child health researchers in innovative research to protect children and families from tobacco smoke exposure. Details on Dr. Wisniewski’s funded project are included below. Congratulations, Dr. Wisniewski!

**Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Therapeutic Efficacy in Cystic Fibrosis** *(PI: Benjamin Wisniewski, MD, Division of Pulmonary Medicine, Nationwide Children’s Hospital)*.

The long-term goal of this study is to identify therapeutic and preventive interventions that mitigate secondhand smoke exposure (SHSe) in cystic fibrosis (CF) patients and other susceptible populations. Using acute and chronic models of combustible cigarette and e-cigarette SHSe, the study’s preliminary data suggests SHSe suppress function of the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene. An improved understanding of how SHSe alters immune function and the therapeutic efficacy of CFTR modulators in children with CF is needed to inform clinical prevention efforts, identify biomarkers of SHSe, and develop novel pathway-targeted therapeutics that alter disease severity. The specific aims of the study will test SHSe from combustible tobacco cigarettes on patients with CF, and will compare the effects of SHSe from combustible tobacco cigarettes and e-cigarettes on CFTR modulator efficacy.

**AAP Section on Tobacco Control Now Accepting Abstract Submissions – Due Date Extended to May 1st**

The AAP Section on Tobacco Control is seeking abstracts to be considered for presentation at the 2020 AAP National Conference and Exhibition in San Diego. We invite you to submit abstracts for poster presentations describing ongoing or completed tobacco-control projects and/or presenting original research findings; abstracts will be presented during the 2020 National Conference Section on Tobacco Control Program. Abstracts describing quality improvement projects may be eligible for Maintenance of Certification (MOC) credit! Section membership is not a requirement to submit. For more information, please visit the 2020 Call for Abstracts page on the National Conference website at https://aapexperience.org/abstracts/.

**In the News**

**MMWR Reports on State and Territorial Laws Prohibiting Sales of Tobacco Products to Persons Aged <21 Years**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health recently released an article in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, reviewing state and territorial laws prohibiting sales of tobacco products to persons aged less than 21 years old. Because almost all tobacco product use initiates in adolescence, raising the minimum legal sales age (MLSA) for tobacco products to 21 years (T21) is a strategy that can help prevent or delay the initiation of tobacco product use. While 19 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Guam, and Palau had enacted T21 laws before the enactment of the 2019 federal T21 law, these state and territorial laws varied widely in many ways, such as purchase, use, and possession penalties and military exemptions. Study authors recommend a “strategy combining comprehensive smoke-free laws, pricing strategies, and T21 laws free of purchase, use, or possession penalties, preemption, or military exemptions” to prevent and reduce youth tobacco product use. Read the full article here.

**Perceptions and Attitudes about Public Marijuana Smoking among US Adults**

While several US states have legalized the non-medical use of marijuana, public marijuana smoking is generally prohibited. A new study assessed adult attitudes about public marijuana smoking, perceptions of harm from marijuana secondhand smoke (SHS), and self-reported marijuana SHS exposure. Results reveal that most adults believe marijuana SHS is harmful and oppose public marijuana smoking. State-level surveillance about marijuana SHS exposure, perceptions of harm, and opinions may be warranted to more effectively guide states’ efforts to educate the public and monitor marijuana use behaviors. Read the full study in *Addiction* here.

**Majority of US Adults Support Tobacco 21 Legislation**

New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health indicate significant support among US adults for Tobacco 21 legislation. In an article in *Preventive Medicine*, CDC researchers evaluated changes in US adults’ attitudes toward Tobacco 21 policies from 2014-2017. Support for Tobacco 21 was high across the full time-span. In 2017, 75% of US adults favored a Tobacco 21 policy;
favorability was especially high among adults who did not use tobacco, older adults, and adults with children. Read more here.

ANRF: Marijuana Legalization may be Threatening Clean Indoor Air Protections
The Americans for Nonsmokers Rights Foundation (ANRF) published a new case study evaluating the impact of marijuana legalization on smokefree air protections. The case study focuses on Berkeley, CA: despite the city’s history of strong smokefree air laws and other tobacco control policies, the Berkeley City Council recently approved a regulation allowing marijuana retailers to apply for a permit for indoor lounges where marijuana can be vaped and smoked. This regulation was passed against the recommendations of the Berkeley Community Health Commission and public health department. ANRF notes that other cities may be at risk of rolling back smokefree air protections to accommodate marijuana legalization. Read more here.

Feasibility of Administering an Electronic Version of the National Youth Tobacco Survey in a Classroom Setting
Since 1999, the National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) has used a scannable paper-and-pencil format to successfully monitor tobacco use patterns and correlates among US students grades 6-12. A study recently published in Preventing Chronic Disease, sought to determine the feasibility and potential benefits of administering the NYTS in an electronic version in school settings. The study concluded that it was feasible to administer the NYTS electronically in school classroom settings, and that this method was well-accepted by respondents and improved the efficiency of survey administration, finding that electronic administration of the NYTS can reduce respondent burden and ultimately lead to a “more timely and valid surveillance of tobacco product use among youths”. Read the full study here.

E-Cigarette Advertising Expenditures in the United States, 2014-2018
A new report in Tobacco Control assessed trends in e-cigarette advertising expenditures in the United States during 2014-2018. Tobacco product advertising has been shown to reach and influence initiation among youth. Total e-cigarette advertising expenditures decreased substantially from $133 million in 2014 to $48 million in 2017, followed by an increase to $110 million in 2018. By media type, expenditures were highest for print advertising, irrespective of year. Continued monitoring of e-cigarette advertising is important to inform tobacco control strategies. Read the full report here.

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Resources and Events

National Institute on Drug Abuse Vaping Resources
The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) maintains a website with up-to-date information on vaping and marijuana use. The page includes patient information, videos, new and emerging data, and infographics related to e-cigarettes and marijuana. Visit the page here.

Webinar: Thirdhand Smoke: What Every Health Care Provider Needs to Know
Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 11:00 am -- 12:30 pm PST
The health impacts and clinical implications of thirdhand smoke are just beginning to be recognized. Are you prepared to discuss thirdhand smoke with your patients? Find out by joining this free webinar developed by the Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center, a project of the California Thirdhand Smoke Research Consortium. At the conclusion of this webinar, participants will be able to discuss known and suspected health effects of thirdhand smoke; identify factors that increase risk of exposure to thirdhand smoke; describe behavior changes that will lead to 100% smokefree home environments, and discuss public health and policy implications of 100% smokefree health care environments. Register here. Visit www.thirdhandsmoke.org for more information.

FDA Launches New Webpage with Tobacco 21 Resources
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) recently launched a new webpage that provides the latest Tobacco 21 legislation information, which increased the federal minimum age of sale of tobacco products to 21 years. The webpage provides information for the public, as well as resources for retailers to help verify the age of customers. View more Tobacco 21 information on the Richmond Center website.

Nicotine Dependence Conference & National Summit on Smokeless Tobacco Prevention 2020
New Course Dates – October 18-20, 2020
Registration is open for the Nicotine Dependence Conference & National Summit on Smokeless Tobacco Prevention 2020, presented by The Health Education Council and Mayo Clinic. The Summit will give participants the ability to identify up-to-date research on prevalence and relative risks of tobacco, e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and other non-combustible tobacco products; discuss clinical strategies for treating tobacco use disorder within the context of rapidly evolving nicotine delivery products; and describe effective models for community and public health interventions to provide accurate education and address the evolving tobacco epidemic. Register and find more information here.

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