



## NEWS RELEASE

### Public Health

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## Vaping-associated pulmonary injuries reported in the County



Two acute pulmonary injury (or lung injury) cases associated with vaping have been reported in San Bernardino County hospitals. California has a total of 36 pulmonary injury cases and one death in Los Angeles County as of Aug. 27. As of Sept. 11, over 380 cases of lung illness and six deaths associated with the use of e-cigarette products have been reported nationwide.

Vaping refers to the increasingly popular practice of inhaling vapor from an e-cigarette device, which works by heating a liquid that can contain nicotine, marijuana or other drugs. The long-term health impacts of vaping are unknown. Some individuals also use a different type of device to heat and extract cannabinoids for inhalation in a process called "dabbing." Both vaping and dabbing have been associated with vaping-associated pulmonary injury (VAPI) nationwide.

"Although the cause of vaping associated illness is still unknown, I urge anyone who is currently vaping or dabbing to stop," said Dr. Maxwell Ohikhuare, San Bernardino County Health Officer. "As of now, this is the only way to prevent pulmonary injury."

### Recommendations to the public:

1. Consider refraining from using e-cigarette products. E-cigarette products should not be used by youth, young adults or pregnant women.
2. Individuals using e-cigarette products should not buy products from unlicensed vendors and should not modify e-cigarette products or add any substances to these products that are not intended by the manufacturer.
3. Individuals using e-cigarette products should monitor themselves for symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, chest pain) and promptly seek medical attention if they have concerns about their health.
4. E-cigarette products should not be used by adults who do not currently use tobacco products. Adult cigarette smokers who are attempting to quit smoking should use evidence-based treatments, including counseling and FDA-approved medications. Individuals who need help quitting tobacco and other products containing nicotine, including e-cigarettes, should contact their doctor.
5. Individuals concerned about harmful effects from e-cigarette products should call the local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222.
6. The public should submit detailed reports of any unexpected tobacco or e-cigarette-related health or product issues to the FDA via the online Safety Reporting Portal at [www.safetyreporting.hhs.gov](http://www.safetyreporting.hhs.gov).

For more information visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Electronic Cigarettes](https://www.cdc.gov/e-cigarettes/) page or contact the Communicable Disease Section at 1-800-722-4794.