



# *Cabell-Huntington Health Department*

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Michael E. Kilkenny, MD, MS  
Physician Director

## CABELL-HUNTINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH OFFICIAL STATEMENT

WHEREAS, according to the Surgeon General of the United States, E-cigarettes are a rapidly emerging and diversified product class which typically deliver nicotine, flavorings, and other additives to users via an inhaled aerosol and are referred to by a variety of names, including “e-cigs,” “e-hookahs,” “mods,” “vape pens,” “vapes,” and “tank systems;”

WHEREAS, e-cigarettes are now the most commonly used tobacco product among youth, surpassing conventional cigarettes in 2014 and e-cigarette use is strongly associated with the use of other tobacco products among youth and young adults, including cigarettes and other burned tobacco products;

WHEREAS, e-cigarette use among youth and young adults has become a health concern, since current use of e-cigarettes by young adults 18-24 has surpassed that of adults 25 years of age and older;

WHEREAS, the use of products containing nicotine poses dangers to youth, pregnant women, and fetuses, and the use of products containing nicotine in any form among youth, including in e-cigarettes, is unsafe;

WHEREAS, vaping products use an e-liquid that may contain nicotine in addition to a combination of flavoring, propylene glycol, vegetable glycerin, and other ingredients and may also contain toxic chemicals such as formaldehyde, acrolein, acrylonitrile, propylene oxide, crotonaldehyde and acetaldehyde, as well as metal particles such as nickel, lead, and chromium, which can be inhaled into the lungs;

WHEREAS, e-cigarettes are marketed by promoting flavors and using a wide variety of media channels and approaches that have been used in the past for marketing conventional tobacco products to youth and young adults;

WHEREAS, according to 2018-19 data 28.2% of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Cabell County reported using e-cigarettes in the past 30 days and that percentage is higher than the national rate of 26.7%;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and state and local health departments nationally, are investigating a multistate outbreak of severe lung disease associated with the use of vaping products;

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2019 the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health directed all health care providers to immediately report any cases of severe lung disease associated with the use of vaping products to be immediately reported to the local health department, which includes the Cabell-Huntington Health Department;

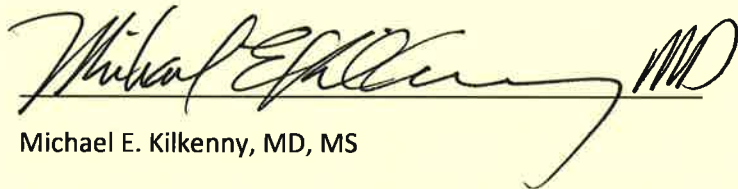
NOW, THEREFORE, to protect the present and future health of the citizens of Cabell County and the City of Huntington, West Virginia, the Cabell-Huntington Board of Health and the Cabell-Huntington Health Department recommend against the use of e-cigarettes and related vaping products by all children, youth, young adults, and pregnant women.

The Cabell-Huntington Board of Health and the Cabell-Huntington Health Department condemn marketing practices that entice children, youth, and young adults to use e-cigarettes, including flavorings and messaging directed at youth and will use any means within their authority to protect the health of these vulnerable citizens.

The Cabell-Huntington Board of Health promotes clean indoor air in Cabell County and the City of Huntington, West Virginia through its Clean Air Ordinance, which prohibits smoking in specified indoor public spaces. The Board of Health interprets e-cigarette use or "vaping" in any form also to be prohibited in these regulated areas.

The Cabell-Huntington Board of Health and the Cabell-Huntington Health Department recommend that any person affected by these recommendations that finds him/herself unable to stop using nicotine, not start or resume using smokeless or smoking tobacco, but consult a health professional regarding recommendations for use of FDA approved methods to stop using nicotine.

Approved on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2019

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Michael E. Kilkenny, MD, MS

Physician Director, Cabell-Huntington Health Department

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Donna Rumbaugh", written over a horizontal line.

Donna Rumbaugh, Chair

Cabell-Huntington Board of Health