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**Public Health Advisory: Outbreak of Serious Vaping Related Lung Illness &  
Statewide Ban on the Sale of Vaping Products**

**September 25, 2019**

Public health officials are currently investigating a multistate outbreak of severe pulmonary illness related to the use of e-cigarette and marijuana vaping devices. As of September 19, 2019, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has confirmed more than 530 cases throughout the country. Nine deaths have been confirmed nationally.

The CDC and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), along with state and local partners, are investigating this outbreak. No specific ingredient or product has been identified as the cause. Some products were purchased from licensed retailers, and others were purchased through less traditional methods "off the street". Some products were modified by users and others were not. Some contained nicotine and others contained marijuana or related substances.

In response to the many unknown variables related to this outbreak, on September 24, 2019, Governor Charlie Baker issued a statewide public health emergency to order a temporary ban on the sales of any vaping products in stores and through online vendors. This ban will last through January 25, 2020.

All Belmont Tobacco Product Sales Permit holders have been notified of their responsibility to uphold the Governor's order and Health Department staff has confirmed that they have removed all of their e-cigarette and vaping products from their sales floors.

The public should contact the Belmont Health Department (617-993-2720) and/or DPH's Tobacco Complaint Line (800-992-1895) to report any retailers that continue to sell any e-cigarettes and/or vaping products during the temporary ban.

The Belmont Board of Health strongly urges residents to consider **not using any e-cigarette or vaping products** until more information has been gathered.

**Regardless of the ongoing investigation and temporary ban:**

- Youth and young adults should not use vaping products
- Women who are pregnant should not use vaping products
- Adults who do not currently use tobacco products should not start using e-cigarette/vaping products
- If you do use vaping products, make sure you know where its ingredients are sourced from. Do not use products from “off the street”.
- Do not modify e-cigarette products or add any substances to these products

**Related Symptoms:**

- Signs of vaping related illness may include:
  - Cough, shortness of breath, or chest pain
  - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
  - Fatigue, fever, or weight loss

If you experience any of these symptoms seek medical attention immediately.

**Additional Resources:**

- Information to assist parents begin conversations about vaping products with their children:  
[https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR\\_ECig\\_ParentTipSheet\\_508.pdf](https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipSheet_508.pdf)
- CDC information about the vaping related illness outbreak:  
[https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html)
- Anyone attempting to quit smoking/vaping should use evidence-based methods that include counseling and FDA-approved medications. If you need help quitting tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, contact your doctor or other health care provider:
  - Quit resources for adults: <https://smokefree.gov/>
  - Quit resources for teens: <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/quitting-smoking-vaping/quitting-e-cigarettes> or <https://teen.smokefree.gov/>
  - MA Smokers Helpline: 1-800-QUIT-NOW or <https://ma.quitlogix.org/en-US/>