

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: Nationwide Illnesses Due to Vaping

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have been investigating a nationwide outbreak of vaping illnesses that appears to have started in March. The CDC recently released a list of vape brands that are most commonly linked to hospitalizations most often cited by patients, noting that some of them said they vaped more than one. Approximately 2,300 people who suffered lung damage were vaping liquids that contain THC, the high-inducing part of marijuana.

According to the CDC report, Dank Vapes was the brand used by 56% of the hospitalized patients nationwide. Dank is not a licensed product coming from one business, it is empty packaging that can be ordered from Chinese internet sites. Illicit vaping cartridge makers can buy the empty packages and then fill them with whatever they choose. Other product names at the top of the list from CDC were TKO (15%), Smart Cart (13%), and Rove (12%). CDC officials have gradually come to focus their investigation on black-market THC cartridges.

Some of the brands cited by the CDC are sold in states with legalized marijuana. But counterfeits of those legitimate brands have flooded the market around the country, forcing some to redesign their packaging. The CDC also maintains that the worst of the outbreak may be over. Hospitalizations peaked in mid-September and have been steadily declining since then. However, cases are still coming in, with 2,291 reported this year — including 176 that joined the tally in late November. Every state has reported cases, and 25 states and the District of Columbia have reported a total of 48 deaths. Symptoms include trouble breathing, chest pain, fatigue and vomiting. Imaging tests show lung injuries and doctors can't find infections or other causes. About half the patients are people in their teens or early 20s.

An analysis of 1,800 of the hospitalized patients found about 80% said they used at least one THC product. Last month, CDC officials said they had narrowed in on a chemical compound called vitamin E acetate that has been commonly found in the lungs of sick patients as well as in the products that they vaped. CDC is recommending that people do not use any e-cigarettes or vaping products that contain THC, especially those obtained from friends, family members or black market dealers. 13% of patients said they vaped only nicotine, and CDC officials are continuing to look at nicotine-containing vapes as well.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a federal agency that conducts and supports health promotion, prevention and preparedness activities in the United States, with the goal of improving overall public health. To learn more about the CDC please visit www.cdc.gov.

SAFE, Inc. is the only alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention and education agency in the City of Glen Cove. Its Coalition is concerned about vaping and seeks to educate and update the community regarding its negative consequences. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition or visit the Vape Page of SAFE's website to learn more about how it's detrimental to your health www.safeglencove.org.