

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Dr. Sharon Harris
516- 676-2008
safeglencove@yahoo.com

SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: World No Tobacco Day 2023

World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is a national event that informs the public about the dangers of tobacco use. Once again, the day will be celebrated by Glen Cove Elementary and Middle School students enrolled in SAFE's Life Skills Training (LST) program with educator- Monica Salinas and students enrolled in Mrs. Sullivan's Middle School Health Education classes.

SAFE and their partner, Tobacco Action Coalition of LI, Community Engagement Specialist Carol Meschkow have been collaborating with the Glen Cove Youth Bureau-Executive Director Spiro Tskias and the Glen Cove School annually for WNTD. The partners have been bringing youth centered programs to the schools to educate and encourage teens to make their collective voices heard against the marketing tactics by speaking out against the deceptive messages.

The following Tobacco Facts will be imparted on the students:

- Menthol cigarettes are not less harmful than other cigarettes and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has found that they are likely a greater public health risk than non-menthol products
- 19.6% of high school teens and 47% of middle school teens smoked e-cigarettes in 2020 • Research show that menthol makes smoking/vaping easier to start and harder to quit • Menthol creates a cooling sensation in the throat and airways when inhaled
- E-Cigarettes can be just as harmful as traditional cigarettes • Vaping Liquid often contains tobacco which is highly addictive • More than half of the youth 54% ages 12-17 smoke menthol
- Scientific evidence show that tobacco companies advertising promotes and influences young people to start using tobacco products
- The average age of a new smoker in NYS is just 13 • Even brief exposure to second-hand smoke can cause asthma attacks • Even small amounts of second-hand smoke can cause a heart attack.
- Air near an outdoor smoker can be 50-times more toxic than surrounding air
- When e-cigarette and cigarette waste isn't disposed of properly, it makes its way into the environment where it ends up polluting water, air, and land with toxic chemicals, heavy metals and residual nicotine. An estimated 766,571 metric tons of cigarette butts make their way into the environment every year
- E-cigarette cartridges, such as JUUL pods, are single-use products that contain plastic, electronic and chemical waste and many of them may also end up as litter. Inexpensive, flavored disposable e-cigarettes such as Puff Bar.

- In 2019, cigarette butts were the most littered item in U.S. beaches and waterways, with close to a million (900,178) pieces collected. • Stores located near schools contain nearly 3x the amount of tobacco promotions compared to stores NOT near schools
- Young people are twice as likely as adults to recall tobacco advertising, and it makes them more likely to smoke
- Today's teenager is tomorrow's potential regular customer, and the overwhelming majority of smokers first begin to smoke while still in their teens.

Students will be taught the importance of doing their part in advocating to their peers to be guardians of our natural resources, marine and wildlife and to "Live SAFE" by protecting themselves and the public from harmful second-hand smoke.

For help Quitting smoking or vaping or to help a loved one beat a Nicotine Addiction please visit the American Lung Association on their Website at: www.americanlung.org. "The American Lung Association says the only thing that should go into your lungs is clean air, so if you're inhaling anything, it could potentially be toxic to your lungs! The New York State Smokers' Quitline assists thousands of New Yorkers every year in their attempts to break free from smoking and other tobacco and the service is free and confidential. Call 1-866-NYQUITS (1-866-697-8487) or visit them at: <https://www.nysmokefree.com/>.for Quit Help.

SAFE, Inc. is the only alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention, and education agency in the City of Glen Cove. The Coalition is concerned about all combustible and electronic products with marijuana and tobacco. The Agency is employing environmental strategies to educate and update the community regarding the negative consequences in collaboration with Carol Meschkow, Manager- Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition or to learn more about electronic products visit the Vaping Facts and Myths Page of SAFE's website to learn more about how vaping is detrimental to your health www.safeglencove.org.