



Health Alert Network

Tri-County Health Department

Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

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John M. Douglas, Jr., M.D. Executive Director

The pages that follow contain information critical to protecting the health of your patients and the citizens of Colorado.

HAN UPDATE

Number of pages including cover: 4

Subject: **Update - CDC Definition of Out-of-Hospital Vaping Associated Lung Injury Death - 10/18/19**

Message ID: 10/18/2019 3:30:00 PM
Recipients: HAN Community Members.
From: TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas County, Colorado

Recipient Instructions: **This HAN has been adapted by TCHD from its original form (sent out 10/18/2019 by CDPHE). Please note, you may have received a similar HAN from CDPHE.**

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use, or if you have additional questions, call 720-200-1477.

Categories of Health Alert Network Messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service/Public Health Brief: Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>

HEALTH ADVISORY / UPDATE | CDC Definition of Out-of-Hospital Vaping Associated Lung Injury
Death | 10/18/19

Key points

- As of October 15, 2019 there have been 33 deaths associated with the use of vaping products reported to CDC.
- CDC has recently issued a Surveillance Case Definition for out-of-hospital deaths from vaping-associated lung injury for individuals who die outside of the hospital or prior to hospital admission, AND for whom chest imaging and clinical evaluation outlined in the primary vaping-associated lung injury surveillance case definition have not been performed.
- CDPHE recommends that autopsies should be considered for deaths among persons with a history of e-cigarette product use, or vaping, who had antecedent respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms, or are suspected of having possible lung injury associated with e-cigarette product use, or vaping, and especially for cases without an alternative, likely diagnosis.
- Coroners and medical examiners should report suspected vaping-associated lung injury cases to CDPHE. Contact CDPHE Disease Reporting Line: 303-692-2700 or 303-370-9395 (after hours) to report a case.

Background information

- This update follows HAN advisories previously issued by CDPHE on Aug. 20, Aug. 21, and Oct. 3, 2019, which are posted on CDPHE's [Vaping and Lung Illness webpage](#).
- As of October 15, 2019, 1479 lung injury cases associated with the use of e-cigarette, or vaping, products have been reported to CDC from 49 states, the District of Columbia, and 1 U.S. territory. Thirty-three deaths have been confirmed in 24 states.

Recommendations / guidance

Out-of-Hospital Death Case definition:

- The surveillance case definition for out-of-hospital deaths from vaping-associated lung injury is **ONLY** meant to be used to determine case status for individuals who die outside of the hospital or prior to hospital admission (e.g., at home, in route to the hospital, or in the emergency department), for whom chest imaging and clinical evaluation outlined in the primary vaping-associated lung injury surveillance case definition have not been performed. This case definition is being used for public health surveillance purposes only and should not be used for clinical diagnostics or forensics.
 - Read the out-of-hospital death surveillance case definition available at:
www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/assets/2019-Lung-Injury-Surveillance-Case-Definition-Out-of-Hospital-508.pdf
- The case definition for out-of-hospital deaths is **NOT** intended to be used to classify case status for surviving individuals or for individuals who die in the hospital, for whom chest imaging and clinical evaluation were performed.
 - Primary vaping-associated lung injury surveillance case definition available at:
www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/assets/2019-Lung-Injury-Surveillance-Case-Definition-508.pdf

Promptly Report Suspect Out-of-Hospital Deaths From Vaping-Associated Lung Injury to CDPHE

- Coroners and medical examiners should report suspected vaping-associated lung injury cases to CDPHE. Contact CDPHE Disease Reporting Line: 303-692-2700 or 303-370-9395 (after hours) to report a case.
- Discuss with CDPHE the need to send clinical specimens from autopsy to CDC for supplemental testing (further instructions below).

Performing Autopsies on Suspect Vaping-Associated Lung Injury Deaths

- The case definition for out-of-hospital deaths integrates pathologic findings from the microscopic review of lung tissue specimens. As medicolegal jurisdiction allows, autopsies should be considered for deaths among persons with a history of e-cigarette product use, or vaping, who had antecedent respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms, or are suspected of having possible lung injury associated with e-cigarette product use, or vaping, and especially for cases without an alternative, likely diagnosis.

Sending Clinical Specimens from Autopsy to CDC

- Fixed tissue specimens from autopsy can be sent to the CDC Infectious Disease Pathology Branch for histopathologic review and other testing. Guidance for submission of pathologic evaluation of tissue specimens is available at: www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease/healthcare-providers/pdfs/specimen-submission-req.pdf
- Coordinate specimen submission with CDPHE to ensure communication around the case investigation.

For more information

CDPHE Disease Reporting Line: 303-692-2700 or 303-370-9395 (after hours)

CDPHE HAN 10/3/2019:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14uAcrOJFpg5dCEELFXdnEzNDqr5XS6Jq/view>

CDPHE Lab Portal: www.colorado.gov/cdphe/lab

CDC Outbreak of Vaping-Associated Lung Injury www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html