

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

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Dear Florida Health Care Providers:

On August 16, 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an [alert](#) urging clinicians to report cases of unexplained pulmonary illness possibly linked to e-cigarette use, or “vaping,” to their local health department (<https://emergency.cdc.gov/newsletters/coca/081619.htm>). To date, 215 possible cases of severe pulmonary illness have been reported nationwide. Most have been hospitalized; in some cases, intubation, mechanical ventilation, and ICU care was required. Symptom onset was gradual, presenting with cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, fever, fatigue, nausea and diarrhea. Patients were negative for any infectious disease etiology and did not improve with antibiotic therapy. Some have improved significantly with corticosteroid therapy. All cases report a history of e-cigarette use or vaping prior to hospital admission.

Recommendations for Health Care Providers:

1. [Report](#) cases of significant pulmonary illness of unclear etiology and a history of e-cigarette use or vaping to your local county health department (Floridahealth.gov/CHDEpiContact) or the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology at 850-245-4401.
2. Ask patients presenting with pulmonary illness with an unclear etiology about the use of e-cigarette or vaping products or any inhalational method of drug use. Document the available details in the medical record.
3. For questions about treatment and clinical management of these patients, contact the Florida Poison Information Center Network (FPICN) at 1-800-222-1222.

The Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida has a Team Up To Quit initiative to engage health care providers, encouraging them to use the “2As+R” (Ask, Advise, Refer) protocol and to refer patients to Tobacco Free Florida’s free, proven-effective cessation tools and services. Providers can use these tangible resources to refer their patients to Tobacco Free Florida, increasing their patients’ chances of successfully quitting tobacco or vaping. For more information, visit tobaccofreeflorida.com/healthcare.