

HEALTH ADVISORY



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“E-Cigarette and Vaping-associated Lung Injury Investigation Continues”

As of October 1, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a total of 1,080 lung injury cases associated with the use of e-cigarette and vaping products have been reported by 48 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. There have been no reports of lung injury cases related to e-cigarette use or vaping in the CNMI thus far.

According to the CDC, “The latest national findings suggest products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) play a role in the outbreak. However, no single product or substance has been linked to all lung injury cases.”

Among patients who provided information on product use 90 days prior to the onset of their illness:

- 78% reported using THC-containing products, with or without the addition of nicotine;
- 37% reported using only THC-containing products;
- 17% reported using nicotine products.

Additionally, about 70% of patients have been male, most under the age of 35 years old. A total of 18 deaths have been confirmed.

Patients have commonly reported symptoms that include:

- Coughing, shortness of breath, and chest pain
- Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea
- Fatigue, fever, or abdominal pain

Some patients have reported that their symptoms developed over just a few days, while others have reported that their symptoms developed over several weeks. If you are experiencing any of the above symptoms, especially if you have a history of vaping or e-cigarette use, please see your doctor right away.

The CDC recommends that people refrain from using e-cigarette or vaping products, particularly those containing THC; not buy these types of products off the street; and not modify or add any substances that were not intended by the manufacturer.

The CDC strongly advises against e-cigarettes use in youth and women who are pregnant.

If you are trying to quit vaping, please call the CNMI Quit-Line at 323-QUIT (7848). The CHCC Tobacco Cessation Program offers cessation services including counseling and, when available, nicotine replacement therapy.

Information adapted from <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/s1003-lung-disease.html> and https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease/need-to-know/index.html

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