**Press Release**

**Embargoed until 1 p.m. ET**

**Friday, September 27, 2019**

Contact: [CDC Media Relations](http://www.cdc.gov/media)

(404) 639-3286

**THC products may play a role in outbreak of lung injury   
associated with e-cigarette use, or vaping***Investigation ongoing, no single product linked to all cases, but patterns emerge*

The latest findings from the investigation into lung injuries associated with e-cigarette use, or vaping, suggest THC products play a role in the outbreak. Most of the people (77%) in this outbreak reported using THC-containing products, or both THC-containing products and nicotine-containing products, according to a report published today in the CDC’s *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR).

Though the investigation is ongoing and the cause remains unknown at this time, today’s report provides the first national comprehensive data on the characteristics of cases reported to CDC, including sex, age, and select substances used in e-cigarette, or vaping products. A second MMWR released today from Wisconsin and Illinois had similar findings regarding THC use and contains more details on the characteristics of cases in those states, including demographics, as well as substances and product types used.

Based on this recent data, CDC recommends people consider refraining from use of e-cigarette or vaping products, particularly those containing THC.

“CDC has made it a priority to find out what is causing this outbreak of lung injuries and deaths and we’re making progress” said Robert R. Redfield, MD, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “We continue to work 24/7 with state partners and FDA to protect our nation from this serious health threat.”

More information is needed to know whether a single product, substance, or brand is responsible for the lung injuries. Unraveling outbreaks such as this requires the collection and analysis of complex information. This epidemiologic investigation if particularly challenging given that it involves hundreds of cases across the country, and patients report use of a wide variety of products and substances.

According to CDC’s national-level report, data about substances used in e-cigarettes, or vaping, products were self-reported by 514 patients. Of the patients who reported what products they used:

* About 77% reported using THC-containing products, with or without nicotine-containing products; 36% reported exclusive use of THC-containing products; and
* 16% reported exclusive use of nicotine-containing products.

In addition, the report from Illinois and Wisconsin showed that nearly all THC-containing products reported were packaged, prefilled cartridges that were primarily acquired from informal sources such as friends, family members, illicit dealers, or off the street.

As of September 24, 2019, 805 confirmed and probable cases of lung injury associated with e-cigarette product use, or vaping, have been reported to CDC by 46 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Those cases included 12 deaths in 10 states (CA (2), GA, FL, IL, IN, KS (2), MN, MO, MS, OR). More than two-thirds of patients are male. The median age of cases is 23 years, with about 62 percent of patients aged 18-34 years, according to the new report.

More information about the investigation is available on the CDC [website](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html), www.cdc.gov/lunginjury**.**

###

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES](http://www.hhs.gov/)

[*CDC works 24/7*](https://www.cdc.gov/24-7/index.html) *protecting America’s health, safety and security. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are curable or preventable, chronic or acute, or from human activity or deliberate attack, CDC responds to America’s most pressing health threats. CDC is headquartered in Atlanta and has experts located throughout the United States and the world.*

*To unsubscribe from this CDC media listserv, please reply to* [*media@cdc.gov*](mailto:media@cdc.gov) *with the email address you would like removed.*