



COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Elsa Jimenez, Director of Health

Administration Clinic Services Public Health
Behavioral Health Emergency Medical Services Public Administrator/Public Guardian
Environmental Health/Animal Services

Nationally Accredited for Providing Quality Health Services

Health Update

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From: Edward L. Moreno, MD, MPH
Health Officer 831-755-4585

Kristy Michie, MS
Epidemiologist 831-755-4503

Vaping Associated Pulmonary Illnesses Continue

Current Situation

The national outbreak of vaping-associated pulmonary illness (VAPI) continues with over 2,000 cases and 40 deaths. Since August 2019, there have been 161 cases of VAPI reported among California residents, including two Monterey County residents. The patients presented with rapid, progressive respiratory distress. Many also reported fevers, abdominal pain, and gastrointestinal symptoms. Cases failed to respond to antibiotic treatment but in some instances improved with systemic steroids. All patients reported vaping in the weeks prior to hospital admission.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers

- **Remain alert for potential cases.** Clinical and exposure criteria include:
 - Severe acute pulmonary illness requiring hospital admission,
 - No apparent infectious etiology (influenza, TB, *Legionella*, etc., ruled out), AND
 - Recent history of vaping.
- **Ask about vaping and obtain product, if available.**
 - Request information on the type of product, brand name, and purchase location.
 - Collect and hold any vaping products and devices for the Monterey County Health Department.
- **Retain leftover biological specimens** from laboratory testing, if available.
 - Hold leftover biological specimens from laboratory testing (i.e., bronchial lavage fluid, blood, urine, sputum) for the Monterey County Health Department.
- **Report suspect cases** to the Monterey County Health Department's Communicable Disease Unit.
 - During normal business hours call (831) 755-4521 or fax (831) 775-8076.
 - After business hours call (831) 755-5100 and ask for the Hazardous Materials Team, who will connect you with the on-call Health Officer.

For Additional Information

See the attached MMWR, October 11, 2019 containing interim guidance for health care providers. For more information about VAPI, visit the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's VAPI website https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html or call the Monterey County Health Department at 831-755-4521.

Health Alert: Warrants immediate action or attention. **Health Advisory:** Provides 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