



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## **Greene County Public Health**

*Melissa Howell, MS, MBA, MPH, RN, RS, Health Commissioner*

*Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director*

# **Press Release**

**For Immediate Release**  
**September 20, 2019**

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### **Ohio Department of Health Confirms 15 Hospitalizations Due to Vaping Related Illnesses**

**XENIA, OH** – The Ohio Department of Health and local health departments are investigating reports of severe lung disease among people who reported recent vaping. Currently, there are no known links to a specific type of product. Vaping products contain many substances and may include nicotine, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), synthetic cannabinoids, or a combination of these.

The Ohio Department of Health has confirmed that there are now 15 confirmed cases. At least three of the confirmed cases of severe pulmonary illness are in individuals who range in age from 16 to 26 years old, including two in Summit County and one in Portage County. Five females and 10 males have been hospitalized. At least 400 cases of breathing illnesses in people who used vaping products have been reported in 33 states across the country, according to U.S. health officials.

Anyone who thinks that they may be experiencing serious breathing problems linked to vaping should seek immediate medical attention. If you are a healthcare provider and wish to report a possible case, please contact your local health department.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued several recommendations to the public about vaping, including:

- Refraining from using e-cigarettes or vaping products if there are concerns about health risks
- Vaping and tobacco products should not be used by youth or pregnant women
- Do not buy vaping products off the street
- Do not modify e-cigarettes or vaping products with any other substances that are not intended by the manufacturer
- Monitor health symptoms if vaping products are used

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### **Youth Cessation Options (All Free of Charge)**

- **My Life, My Quit (Ohio Tobacco Quit Line).** This program combines best practices for youth tobacco cessation adapted to include vaping and new ways to reach a coach using live text messages or online chat. The program includes educational materials designed for teens created with youth input and through discussion with subject matter experts and community stakeholders. To enroll, text or call 1-855-891-9989 or visit [mylifemyquit.com](http://mylifemyquit.com)
- **This is Quitting (Truth Initiative).** This is Quitting is a free text message program created with input from teens, college students, and young adults who have attempted to, or successfully quit, e-cigarettes. The program is tailored by age group to give appropriate recommendations about quitting and serves as a resource for parents looking to help their children who now vape. Youth and young adults can access the new e-cigarette quit program by texting "DITCHJUUL" to 88709. Parents and other adults looking to help young people quit should text "QUIT" to 202-899-7550.  
<https://www.thetruth.com/articles/hot-topic/quit-vaping>
- **Ohio Tobacco Quitline.** Provides cessation services to youth and young adults. 1-800-QUIT-NOW, 1-800-784-8669

For additional resources in Greene County, visit

[http://www.gcph.info/files/resources/Greene\\_County\\_Tobacco\\_Cessation\\_Resource\\_List.pdf](http://www.gcph.info/files/resources/Greene_County_Tobacco_Cessation_Resource_List.pdf). You can also visit the CDC at [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease/need-to-know/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease/need-to-know/index.html).

Should you have additional questions, please contact Shernaz Reporter at 937-374-5617.

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