Dear Colleagues,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has received reports from several states regarding recent cases of severe pulmonary disease associated with “vaping” (see https://emergency.cdc.gov/newsletters/coca/081619.htm). Symptoms have included difficulty breathing, cough and chest pain worsening over a period of days or weeks prior to hospitalization. Other symptoms have included vomiting and diarrhea and fatigue and fever. Some patients have progressed to respiratory compromise requiring ventilatory support. Chest radiographs and CT imaging have demonstrated bilateral diffuse ground-glass opacities.

All cases have reported “vaping” (use of e-cigarette devices to aerosolize substances for inhalation) in the weeks and months prior to seeking medical care. No specific product or device has yet been identified or conclusively linked to the illnesses. Many patients have described vaping with heavy use of multiple products including tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)-containing products, synthetic cannabinoids, nicotine or combinations of these products. To date no infectious etiologies have been identified. Investigations into the etiology of these illnesses are ongoing, but an association with vaping has been determined. Testing of samples of vaping products from cases is in progress, and results are pending. No similar cases have yet been reported in Mississippi.

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is asking healthcare providers to:
- Be aware of the potential for vaping related pulmonary disease—ask about vaping or use of e-cigarettes (ask about the use of e-cigarette products (devices, liquids, refill pods and/or cartridges) for “vaping” for any patient presenting with severe pulmonary or respiratory illness of unclear etiology;
• **Report** potential cases of severe pulmonary or respiratory disease who have
  o A recent history of vaping (regardless of product);
  o No clear infectious etiology;
  o **Reports should be made to the Mississippi Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.**

• Please ask about any retained product that may be available for testing.

Please call the MSDH Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725 with questions.

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist
Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20190822-00150-ADV
Program (HAN) Type: Health Advisory
Status (Type): Actual
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00150
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.
Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory: Provides important 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.
Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
Status (Type):
Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
Message Type:
- Alert: Indicates an original Alert
- Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
- Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
- Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:
- Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
- Severe: Significant threat to life or property
- Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
- Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
- Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:
- Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
- Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).