

Read on for announcements from the [Tobacco Control Network](#) (TCN) and our partners.

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TCN News

News and announcements from the Tobacco Control Network

TCN Announcements

- TCN collaborated with the CDC Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) to produce a pair of microlearning videos designed to educate school-based administrators on the health risks of youth e-cigarette use. The [long form](#) and [short form](#) videos, which are available on the [Resources tab](#) of the TCN website alongside a host of supplementary resources, feature introductory remarks from TCN Chair Luci Longoria and presentations from Dr. Brian King, OSH's deputy director for research translation.
- All TCN members are invited to provide input on the newly implemented [2019-2022 Strategic Map](#) by submitting any feedback and questions to tcn@astho.org.
- Program managers and Funders Alliance leads are encouraged to refer to emails from tcn@astho.org to submit their ballot for the 2019-2020 TCN Executive Committee elections by Friday, Sept. 27.

Help Your Peers Requests

Working with Pharmacists to Reach Medical Assistance Population

*The twice monthly **TCN News** provides a concise digest of tobacco control announcements to the Tobacco Control Network's membership base of tobacco control program managers and additional staff from each state, territory, and D.C., as well as our valued partners.*

Upcoming Events

[Flavored Tobacco Product Restrictions in Massachusetts: Impact on Availability and Youth Use](#) – Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Oct. 24, 2-3:30 PM ET|No Registration Required

[FDA Center for Tobacco Products Public Meeting on Deemed Tobacco Product Applications](#)

Silver Spring, MD
Oct. 28-29|Registration Required

[APHA Annual Meeting and Expo](#) – American Public Health Association
Philadelphia, PA
Nov. 2-6|Registration Required

Funding Opportunities

If you are aware of any funding opportunities that would appeal to state and territorial

Deadline: Oct. 3

The Minnesota Department of Health is looking for examples of how other states have worked with pharmacists to reduce barriers to cessation services. In Minnesota, pharmacists can prescribe over the counter NRT for those with Medical Assistance (MA) and they are looking for ways of promoting this and getting folks with MA to utilize this in order to get easier access to quitting medication.

To date, they've already worked with the pharmacy board to issue a letter to the pharmacies and pharmacists in MN to make them more aware of their ability to prescribe this type of medication and to encourage them to elevate tobacco cessation within their work. Additionally, they have a small media campaign they are currently finalizing that will be directed at the MA population to make them aware that they can go to the pharmacy for a prescription for things like patches and nicotine gum. They're looking for examples of how others have worked with pharmacies or pharmacists, primarily within the community setting, so they can build upon this work. They fund community-based organizations that are interested in piloting this type of cessation work and we'd love to hear about what others are doing.

Tobacco Retail Licenses

Deadline: Oct. 10

What is the cost of the tobacco retail license in your state? Are your vape shops licensed and regulated? Is that a separate license? What is the fee?

Smokefree Vehicle Policies

Deadline: Oct. 10

Montana is in the process of researching vehicle policies to provide guidance for their program's contracted Tobacco Prevention Specialists. They're getting close to creating a smokefree vehicle policy and they wanted to see if any TCN members have a model policy that address smoking in vehicles with children.

If you have any information to share or know someone who does, please reply to tcn@astho.org and we will pass your

tobacco control programs, please reach out to tcn@astho.org.

Job Listings

[Chief of the Evaluation Unit](#)
[California Department of Public Health](#)
[Sacramento, CA](#)

About the Tobacco Control Network

The TCN's mission is to improve the public's health by providing education and state-based expertise to tobacco prevention and control at the state and national levels.

The TCN is a network of tobacco program managers and staff from state and territorial health departments as well as Funder's Alliance organizations, and a peer group of the [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials](#) (ASTHO) on behalf of the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health.

About ASTHO

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials is the national nonprofit association representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy and to ensuring excellence in

insights along to the person who submitted the request and to other TCN members interested in learning more.

state-based public health practice.



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Partner Announcements

- **ASTHO** published a [blog post](#) and a [video](#) from ASTHO Chief Medical Officer Marcus Plescia that detail what federal e-cigarette regulation means for state health agencies.
- Following an announcement from HHS Secretary Alex Azar and public comments from President Donald Trump, **HHS** [issued](#) a press release stating an intention to remove all flavored e-cigarette products from the market by enforcing FDA's authority to require premarket review application submissions before tobacco products can be sold in the US.
 - **FDA** and **CDC** released media statements supporting the Trump Administration's decision.
 - **FDA** [issued](#) a proposed rule for the premarket review application process, with public comments requested through Nov. 25.
- As of Sept. 24, **CDC** is [reporting](#) that approximately 805 confirmed and likely cases of e-cigarette-associated pulmonary illness have been identified in 38 states and one U.S. territory, including 12 deaths across 10 states. CDC and FDA have still not identified a specific vaping product or chemical compound in their investigation, but do note that most patients report using vaping products containing the cannabis derivative THC.
 - **CDC** [announced](#) that it is activating its Emergency Operations Center to provide additional support to its response to the vaping-associated illnesses and deaths.

- **FDA** [launched](#) a new web page providing information about the agency's responses and linking to relevant resources.

State News

- **New York** Gov. Andrew Cuomo [announced](#) an executive order prohibiting the sale of most flavored e-cigarette products, exempting those with mint or menthol flavorings.
- **California** Gov. Gavin Newsome [announced](#) an executive action that would work to remove illegal vaping devices from the market and launch a public awareness campaign on the dangers of vaping product use.
- The Council of the **District of Columbia** [introduced](#) bills that would prohibit the sale of all flavored e-cigarettes and would require a prescription to buy other e-cigarette products.

In the News

- The arrest of two men involved in a large-scale illicit THC product operation in Wisconsin may [shed light](#) on the types of THC-containing e-liquids that could be contributing the ongoing pulmonary deaths and disease cases.
 - CBS, WarnerMedia—the parent company of CNN, TNT, and TBS—and Viacom—the parent company of BET, CMT, TV Land, and Paramount Network—[announced](#) that they would no longer air e-cigarette advertisements.
 - The following news items relate to the investigation and regulation of JUUL Labs:
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- *Politico* [reports](#) that although JUUL Labs spent millions of dollars on local, state, and federal lobbying efforts, regulations and policies that would restrict the sale of their products continue to advance.
- *AP* [reports](#) that JUUL Labs and other e-cigarette manufacturers and industry groups intend to legally challenge state and federal efforts to regulate flavored e-cigarette products.
- *Reuters* reports that approximately 30 individual and class action lawsuits have been [filed](#) against JUUL Labs and/or its parent company Altria Group alleging, among other claims, that the company marketed to minors and produced defective products.
- A study [published](#) in *JAMA Internal Medicine* [found](#) that the carcinogen pulegone, a constituent of mint oil that FDA banned as a food additive last year, is found frequently in e-cigarette liquids and other smokeless products.

Research

- According to a *New England Journal of Medicine* correspondence outlining new data from the nationally representative Monitoring the Future study, 25.4 percent of 12th graders, 20.2 percent of 10th graders, and 9.0 percent of 8th graders [reported](#) using nicotine vaping products in the last 30 days.
- A study of pregnant smokers, published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, [concluded](#) that a text message support program significantly improved the likelihood of quitting, and that scheduled gradual reduction of cigarette smoking did not have an impact.

- A study published in *Tobacco Control* [found](#) that viewing informational web pages led to increased knowledge of chemicals and health harms associated with using tobacco products.

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