

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 Resource of the Month:** The finalized 2019-2022 TCN Strategic Map [outlines](#) the mission and strategic objectives that will guide TCN's support of state and territorial tobacco control programs for the coming years.

## Help Your Peers Requests

### State Anti-E-Cigarette Advertisements

**Deadline:** Nov. 4

New Hampshire is interested in links to state anti-e-cigarette advertisements targeting 11-13 and 14-18 year-olds.

*If you have any information to share or know someone who does, please reply to [tcn@astho.org](mailto:tcn@astho.org) and we will pass your insights along to the person who submitted the request and to other TCN members interested in learning more.*

## Partner Announcements

- **ASTHO [published](#)** a brief outlining state executive actions on e-cigarette sales and resulting litigation, [created](#) a map outlining state actions taken to date, and [released](#) an updated blog post

*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*

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

### Funding Opportunities

[Technical Assistance Opportunity: Medicaid and Public Health Collaboration to Advance the CDC's 6|18 Initiative](#)

**Application Deadline:** Nov. 4  
With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Center for Health Care Strategies and ASTHO invite

on the actions states are taking to regulate vaping products.

- **Public Health Law Center** is [maintaining](#) a similar listing of federal, state, and tribal executive actions taken to date.
- On Oct. 16, **ASTHO** member Renee Coleman-Mitchell (SHO-CT) [testified](#) on e-cigarettes as a threat to public health before the House Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.
- **CDC** [reports](#) that, as of Oct. 15, 1,479 cases of e-cigarette-associated pulmonary illness have been identified across 49 states, Washington, D.C., and one U.S. territory, including 33 associated deaths across 24 states. CDC and FDA have still not identified a specific vaping product or chemical compound that is causing the outbreak, but note that a majority of patients reported using vaping products containing the cannabis derivative THC.
  - **CDC** [published](#) a *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* with updated interim guidance for healthcare providers who treat persons with symptoms of what has been termed e-cigarette, or vaping, product use associated lung injury (EVALI).
- **The Federal Trade Commission** [issued](#) orders to six leading e-cigarette product manufacturers to study their sales, advertising, and promotional methods.
- A national survey published by the **American Society of Clinical Oncology** [found](#) that about 1 in 5 young adults use e-cigarettes daily or recreationally, and that 1 in 4 believe e-cigarettes are harmless and not addictive.

Medicaid and public health agencies to apply to receive technical assistance to implement interventions under CDC's 6|18 Initiative. This technical assistance opportunity builds on three successful years of engagement with 34 states, local jurisdictions, and territories across the United States.

### **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.

- **FDA** [announced](#) a request for nominations for voting and nonvoting members of its Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee.

## State News

- As directed by Gov. Jay Inslee, the **Washington** State Board of Health [approved](#) a 120-day emergency ban on flavored vaping products, including products containing nicotine and THC.
- The following court rulings have resulted from lawsuits challenging state executive orders to regulate the sale of e-cigarette products:
  - A federal judge [upheld](#) **Massachusetts'** total four-month ban on vaping product sales, denying the restraining order sought by vaping industry stakeholders.
  - A state judge [issued](#) a preliminary injunction blocking **Michigan's** emergency prohibition on flavored e-cigarette sales, ruling that the matter was inadequate for the use of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's emergency powers.
  - A **New York** state court temporarily [blocked](#) enforcement of the e-cigarette sales ban announced by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.
- Los Angeles County, **California** [passed](#) a sales restriction covering flavored tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and menthol cigarettes.

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 state-based public health practice.



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## In the News

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- JUUL Labs [suspended](#) online sales of some of its flavored nicotine pods, but will continue to sell mint and menthol products on its website.
- According to reporting from the *Los Angeles Times*, Obama Administration officials [dismissed](#) evidence that would have supported an FDA ban on flavored tobacco products years before the present youth vaping epidemic and pulmonary disease outbreak.
- Retailers Kroger and Walgreens [announced](#) they will stop selling e-cigarettes at all of their locations nationwide.
- Reynolds American [filed](#) for FDA premarket application of its Vuse e-cigarette products, which would allow those products to stay on the market pending FDA review.
- Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL) [introduced](#) a bill that will limit the nicotine content in e-cigarette products to make them less addictive to consumers.
- According to a Gallup poll, 8 percent of American adults [reported](#) vaping in the last week, including 19 percent of those aged 18 to 29.
- Despite suspending some lobbying activities, JUUL Labs [founded](#) a new “Switch Network” grassroots initiative with help from a high profile campaigning firm.
- Chinese online retailer Alibaba [announced](#) that it will stop selling e-cigarette components, which may play a role in the production of counterfeit vaping products, to American consumers.

- According to a recent *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 64.1 percent of school-aged youth who [reported](#) tobacco product use in 2018 reported using a flavored tobacco product, in part due to increasing popularity of e-cigarettes among this age group.
- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* data analysis [found](#) that 9.3 percent of U.S. adolescents believe that occasional JUUL use causes no harm, and that 29.3 percent of U.S. adolescents believe JUUL products to be less addictive than conventional cigarettes.
- A CDC analysis of Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data published in *Preventing Chronic Disease* [concluded](#) that CDC's Tips from Former Smokers advertising campaign exposure was associated with increased odds of smokers attempting to quit.
- A *Lancet* analysis of U.S. spirometry data [concluded](#) that both former cigarette smokers and low-intensity smokers have significant declines in lung function, indicating that even infrequent cigarette use is detrimental to one's health.

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**Our address:**

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, 2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 450, Arlington, VA 22202  
[TCN@astho.org](mailto:TCN@astho.org)