

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

Help Your Peers Requests

Encouraging E-Cigarette Cessation Among Students: Apr. 29

What are schools and communities doing to encourage vaping cessation among middle and high school students? We've found that just offering an alternative to suspension tobacco education program is not enough to help them quit or encourage them to stop violating the tobacco-free school policy. While requiring cessation doesn't seem like the best answer, we have school systems that are looking into possibly offering participation in a cessation program in exchange for disciplinary consequences. What are schools doing that seems to be working to address the epidemic?

If you have any information to share or know someone who does, please reply to 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

- The **Federal Trade Commission** [filed](#) a complaint alleging that Altria Group's purchase of a 35% stake in JUUL Labs violates federal antitrust laws. An administrative trial is scheduled for Jan. 5, 2021.

*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

[Increasing Lung Cancer Screening Uptake in Eligible Adults: Do We Know What Works?](#) – American Cancer Society
Webinar
April 29, 1-2 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

[No Menthol Sunday](#) – National African American Tobacco Prevention Network
May 17 | *Save the date*

[Tobacco Cessation and Lung Cancer Screening](#) – American Cancer Society
Webinar
June 3, 1-2 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

[State of Black Health Conference](#) – National African American Tobacco Prevention Network
Charlotte, NC
Sept. 1-3 | *Registration required*

- The following announcements come from the **FDA Center for Tobacco Products**:
 - FDA [filed](#) a motion in federal court to extend the premarket review deadline for e-cigarettes and other tobacco products by 120 days due to the extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19. A federal judge subsequently [granted](#) this motion, pushing the deadline back from May 12 to Sept. 9.
 - FDA is [extending](#) the public comment deadline for their request for information on vaping products and lung injuries to June 19.
 - FDA and its education partner Scholastic [updated](#) their “Real Cost of Vaping” educational materials for middle and high school students, including tools conducive to home learning.
 - FDA [posted](#) an updated Modified Risk Tobacco Product application from 22nd Century Group Inc. for their low nicotine cigarettes.
- The **Big Cities Health Coalition** [launched](#) a blog series highlighting innovative tobacco control policies in cities, starting with [Philadelphia](#).
- A **Truth Initiative** article [offers](#) advice on how to quit smoking, or encourage someone else to quit, while still practicing social distancing.
- The **National Association of Chronic Disease Directors** [published](#) a fact sheet highlighting precautions people with chronic conditions should take to protect themselves from COVID-19.

State News

- **Rhode Island** [moved](#) to permanently ban the sale of all flavored e-cigarette products after the

[Nicotine Dependence Conference & National Summit on Smokeless Tobacco Prevention 2020](#) – Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN
Oct. 18-20 | *Registration required*

Funding Opportunities

[Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program](#)

Truth Initiative
May 26 | *Application deadline*

[Tobacco-Free Generation Campus Initiative Grant Program](#)

American Cancer Society
June 15 | *Application deadline*

Job Listings

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist](#)
Vermont Department of Health
Burlington, VT

[Senior Science Advisor](#)

FDA Center for Tobacco Products
Silver Spring, MD

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](#)

Department of Health extended a temporary ban that expired April 1.

- **New York state** Governor Andrew Cuomo [signed](#) a number of bills into law, including a tobacco control bill that prohibits the sale of flavored e-cigarette products without FDA approval, prohibits the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies, and restricts the public display of tobacco products near schools, among other measures.
- **Utah** Governor Gary Herbert [signed](#) two e-cigarette bills, one that imposes a 56% wholesale tax on e-cigarettes and another requiring that most flavored e-cigarettes be sold exclusively in tobacco specialty shops.
- **Massachusetts** Attorney General Maura Healy [joined](#) Massachusetts General Hospital in cautioning healthcare professionals, advocates, and parent groups that smoking and vaping may make COVID-19 infections more severe.
- **Minnesota** [announced](#) the launch of a new state quitline, Quit Partner MN, which includes free coaching calls, medications, text reminders, and support emails.

[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 state-based public health practice.



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In the News

- A *New York Times* article [details](#) emerging evidence that tobacco and marijuana use may put individuals at greater risk of severe complications from COVID-19.
- The New York State Academy of Family Physicians [released](#) a statement calling for a prohibition of tobacco products in the state during the COVID-19 pandemic, citing the strain on the healthcare infrastructure and growing evidence that

tobacco use increases the risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Research

- A *Tobacco Control* analysis of state-level e-cigarette regulations and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data [concluded](#) that despite the short history of state e-cigarette laws, five different policy areas (defining e-cigarettes, special tax, packaging, youth access, and licensure) were associated with reduced odds of e-cigarette initiation and use.
- A study of e-cigarette- or vaping-associated lung injury (EVALI) cases published in *JAMA Network Open* [found](#) that states with legalized recreational marijuana had 1.7 EVALI cases per million people compared to 8.8 cases per million in medical marijuana states and 8.1 cases per million in marijuana prohibition states.
- A *Pediatrics* analysis of tobacco-use data from Southern California youth [concluded](#) that modifiable e-cigarette use at baseline was associated with six times more cigarettes smoked at follow-up compared to vape pen use.

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