

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

Alternatives to the "Lung Challenge" Spirometer Game Deadline: June 4

In the past, Kentucky has used a "Lung Challenge" game at some of their exhibits and it has always been wildly popular. The Lung Challenge is basically two huge spirometers that participants blow into. One of the tubes mimics the lungs of a tobacco user and the other mimics healthy lungs. Sadly, due to COVID-19, the game has to be retired. Are there any other types of games that other states have found to be popular and successful? There are spinning wheels and prizes, but Kentucky would love to hear about other experiential ideas.

Working with Pharmacists on Cessation Treatment Prescribing

Deadline: June 5

The Oregon Tobacco Prevention and Education Program is working with the Oregon College of Pharmacy on allowing pharmacists to assess for nicotine addiction and prescribe NRT and other cessation medications. Do other states have experience with pharmacist prescribing? They are especially interested in training materials, communications tools, and evaluation results.

*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

[Combating Tobacco Industry Interference Before, During, and After the Age of COVID-19](#) – Action on Smoking and Health

May 28, 12-1 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

[World No Tobacco Day](#) – World Health Organization
May 31 | *Save the date*

[Tobacco Cessation and Lung Cancer Screening](#) – American Cancer Society
Webinar

June 3, 1-2 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

[Connecting to Care: How to Leverage Quitlines to Better Support Your Clients](#) – National Behavioral Health Network, Behavioral Health

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

- **U.S. Surgeon General** Jerome Adams [drafted](#) an editorial published in *JAMA* summarizing the findings of the recent [report](#) on smoking cessation and recommending next steps for public health and healthcare stakeholders.
- **FDA** announced the following:
 - Nominations for the Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee are now [open](#) through June 22.
 - FDA [published](#) a FAQ fact sheet that addresses the latest evidence connecting cigarette and vaping product use to COVID-19.
 - FDA Center for Tobacco Products director Mitch Zeller [authored](#) an article in the *American Journal of Public Health* outlining how the National Youth Tobacco Survey has informed the Center's tobacco product regulations. A corresponding commentary [outlines](#) diverse opinions held by public commenters on the regulatory actions of FDA.
- A new resource sheet from the **National Behavioral Health Network** [spotlights](#) articles, webinars, journal research, and other resources relating to the impact of COVID-19 and tobacco use among individuals with behavioral health conditions.

and Wellness Program at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Smoking Cessation Leadership Center at UCSF, and the National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery
June 8, 2-3 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

[Smoking Cessation: A Report of the Surgeon General](#) – American Cancer Society Webinar
June 24, 1-2 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

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

Funding Opportunities
[Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program](#)
Truth Initiative
June 30 | *Application deadline*

Job Listings
[Health Scientist Administrator \(Program Officer & Scientific Review Officer\)](#)
National Institutes of Health
Rockville, 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

- **Action on Smoking and Health** [published](#) the recording of a webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on the African American community, co-moderated by the **African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council**.
- **Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation** [celebrated](#) the bars, restaurants, and casinos that are adopting smokefree policies upon reopening after a loosening of local COVID-19 restrictions.
- **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids** [published](#) a video highlighting the connection between COVID-19 and tobacco use.
- **Trust for America's Health** [analyzed](#) the health of America's congressional districts based on 11 preventive health measures, including prevalence of adult tobacco smoking.

State News

- **Minnesota** Governor Tim Walz [signed](#) 11 bills into law, including a bill that raises the purchase age of all tobacco and nicotine products to 21 in concordance with federal law.
- **North Carolina** [published](#) a fact sheet highlighting the relationship between tobacco use and COVID-19, as well as resources to help tobacco users quit.
- An American Heart Association success story [details](#) how **Colorado** repealed its tobacco preemption policy in March 2019, allowing for dozens of local tobacco regulation campaigns and tax increase proposals.

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 state-based public health practice.



Forward to Friend

- Oakland, **California** [closed](#) a loophole that allowed adult-only tobacco retailers to sell flavored tobacco products, meaning that the products are now completely prohibited within the city.
- **Maryland** Governor Larry Hogan [vetoed](#) a bill that would have raised cigarette taxes, established a tax on nicotine vaping systems, and established the nation's first tax on digital advertising. The state legislature can vote to override the governor's veto.

In the News

- FDA and four tobacco manufacturers [filed](#) a joint motion to extend the deadline to display FDA-mandated graphic warning labels on cigarette packaging and advertisements by 120 days to Oct. 16, 2021, citing disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This follows an earlier motion filed by tobacco companies requesting an injunction on implementing the required labels, claiming a violation of the First Amendment.
- Nationwide cigarette sales [rose](#) by 1.1% for the week ending March 22, as many governors issued stay-at-home orders in response to COVID-19, before an 8.4% decline in early April.

Research

- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of National Youth Tobacco Survey data from 2011 to 2018 [concluded](#) that the proportion of youth smokers who smoke menthols declined from 57.3% to 45.7%, with no change observed among several

sociodemographic groups including non-Hispanic black and Hispanic youth smokers.

- A *JAMA Pediatrics* comparison of adolescent and adult cases of e-cigarette product use–associated lung injury [found](#) that adolescents were more likely to obtain vaping products from informal sources and report certain symptoms, such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.
- A model published in *Tobacco Control* [estimated](#) that a sustained 10-year national antitobacco media campaign would result in net societal savings of \$10.4 billion by reducing adult cigarette smoking prevalence by 1.2%.

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