



## TOWN OF WELLESLEY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### Wellesley Health Department Enforcing State Ban on Vaping Products at Local Retailers

**September 25, 2019 (Wellesley, MA)** – The Wellesley Health Department hand-delivered letters to eleven local retail outlets today to insure these business are complying with an emergency order from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts banning the sale and public display of all vaping products sold in stores, online and by any other means.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced the [ban](#) yesterday, September 24, 2019, after Governor Charlie Baker declared a public health emergency in Massachusetts due to severe lung disease associated using e-cigarettes and vaping products and the epidemic of e-cigarette use among youths.

Complete information about the public health emergency is available online at the [Mass.gov](http://Mass.gov) [website](#).

The [Health Department letter](#) was delivered to those Wellesley retailers who sell vaping products and accessories and must be posted in these stores at front and back entrances.

The products prohibited from sale and display are:

- All non-flavored and flavored vaping products, including mint and menthol; and products used to vape tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and any other cannabinoid
- Vape products are any product intended for human consumption by inhalation, regardless of nicotine content, whether for one-time use or reusable, that relies on vaporization of aerosolization, including but not limited to e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pens, hookah pens, and other similar devices that rely on vaporization or aerosolization. This includes any component, part or accessory of these products or devices defined, even if sold separately.

The emergency order is effective immediately and lasts for four months, but may be extended. It is enforced by the Health Department. Officials will follow up today's letter and visit with a repeat visit in 24 hours to ensure that Wellesley businesses are complying with the order.

Retailers who fail to comply may be fined, have their vape products seized and face other penalties.

“Diligent work with all of our retailers is crucial to preventing further illnesses and death from vaping products. Information from the State shows that this is a public health crisis affecting both adults and youth that is rapidly escalating. Our job is to respond quickly and protect all residents,” said Lenny Izzo, Health Department Director.

Vaping consists of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol (often called vapor) produced by an e-cigarette or similar battery-powered device. The U.S. surgeon general has called teen e-cigarette use an epidemic. According to MDPH reports, in Massachusetts, 41 percent of all youth in 2017 reported trying e-cigarettes and 1 in 5 reported using e-cigarettes regularly.

### **Get Help Quitting**

Both MDPH officials and the Health Department are working on public education campaigns to reduce e-cigarette use in both adults and youth and address the withdrawal symptoms associated with the prohibition of vaping products.

Cessation resources:

- MDPH Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program 617-624-5900
- MDPH quit line 1-800-QUITNOW or [makesmokinghistory.org](http://makesmokinghistory.org)
- [Resources for Youth and Parents](#)

Additional information on the State ban of vaping products is available on the [Wellesley Health Department website](#).

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