



Public Health Update
Chemical of Concern Identified Among People with E-cigarette, or Vaping Product use
Associated Lung Injury (EVALI)
November 18, 2019

Situation: CDC has identified vitamin E **acetate** as a chemical of concern among people with e-cigarette, or vaping product use associated lung injury (EVALI). Recent CDC laboratory testing of bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) fluid samples (fluid samples collected from the lungs) from 29 patients with EVALI submitted to CDC from 10 states found vitamin E acetate in **all** the samples. Vitamin E acetate might be used as an additive in the production of e-cigarette, or vaping products, most notably as a thickening agent in THC-containing products.

This is the first time that CDC has detected a potential chemical of concern in biologic samples from patients with EVALI.

CDC continues to recommend that people should not use e-cigarette, or vaping products that contain THC, particularly from informal sources like friends, or family, or in-person or online dealers. Until the relationship of vitamin E acetate and lung health is better characterized, it is important that vitamin E acetate not be added to e-cigarette, or vaping products. CDC will continue to update guidance, as appropriate, as new data become available from this outbreak investigation.

While it appears that vitamin E acetate is associated with EVALI, evidence is not yet sufficient to rule out contribution of other chemicals of concern to EVALI. Many different substances and product sources are still under investigation, and it may be that there is more than one cause of this outbreak.

Since many different substances and product sources are still under investigation, the only way to assure that the public is not at risk while the investigation continues is to consider refraining from use of all e-cigarette, or vaping products. More information can be found here:

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html

The Southern Nevada Health District requests that providers continue to report suspected cases to the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance by phone: 702-759-1300 or fax: 702-759-1414.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fermin S.', is positioned above the typed name.

Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH
Acting Chief Health Officer
Southern Nevada Health District

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

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