

Vaping in Schools

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Schools across the country are reporting more and more problems with students vaping in school. As per the [National Institute of Health](#) research, "...many teens do not even realize that vaping cartridges contain nicotine, and assume the pods contain only flavoring. The easy availability of these devices, alluring advertisements, various e-liquid flavors, and the belief that they're safer than cigarettes have helped make them appealing to this age group."

Further, as per the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) , "E-Cigarettes [including all forms of vapes] are the most commonly-used tobacco products among youth, and use is rising at an alarming rate. In 2020, 19.6% of high school students and 4.7% of middle school students reported having used e-cigarettes in the last 30 days.... Youth use of e-cigarettes has increased dramatically in recent years. E-Cigarettes contain a liquid solution that is usually flavored. Flavors, which are appealing to children, can include fruit flavors, candy, coffee, piña colada, peppermint, bubble gum or chocolate.... [However an] E-Cigarette solution [contains](#) nicotine, chemicals, and other toxicants (i.e., anti-freeze, diethylene glycol and carcinogens like nitrosamines)."

Please also be aware that many vapes contain more than just nicotine and the toxins listed above. Many students are vaping cannabis (Marijuana/THC). There are also many reports across the country that vapes are being laced with [fentanyl](#). Please click [here](#) for more information on fentanyl.

The problem that many schools are facing is the abundance of products that are marketed for children. Not only are these products flavored to make them more child-friendly, but they are also marketed to avoid both parental and school detection. I ask you to please take time to view this short [video](#) from NBC News.

Current Measures in Place to try to Reduce Vaping at School

- Warnings and consequences have been issued to students that are "hanging out" in the restrooms and not there to use the facilities.
- Students are required to sign-in and sign-out of the restroom and to carry school issued hall passes.
- Our Student Assistance Counselor will be meeting with 8th graders this spring regarding the dangers and risks associated with vaping and e-cigarettes.
- Rolling out a social media campaign to spread information about vaping.

Consequences for Vaping and/or Having Vaping Products in School

As per district policies and regulations ([5530](#), [5533](#), and/or [5600](#)), students caught vaping or with drug and/or tobacco related products* in school (including on the school bus and or at school related events) will be required to go for a drug screen and will be issued an In-School-Suspension. If the drug screen's results are positive for drugs, the student will be suspended from school for three days for the first offense, five days for the second offense, and ten days for all subsequent offenses. If there is a positive result in the drug screen, students must go for a chemical dependency evaluation and adhere to all recommendations from the evaluation.

In addition to those school-based consequences, as per [New Jersey law](#), a complaint will be filed with Jefferson Municipal court regardless of the outcome of the drug testing. The listed fines for these offenses are \$250 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense, and \$1000 for the third and subsequent offenses.

In addition to reinforcing the consequences for students that are caught vaping or with vaping products, we also ask you to help us be proactive in stopping our children from vaping. Please see [this brochure](#) on ways to talk to your child about vaping.

*Tobacco related products include, but are not limited to, any form of tobacco, any product that is used to inhale nicotine or drugs, lighters, matches, rolling paper. Drug paraphernalia includes, but is not limited to, any equipment, product, or material of any kind which is intended or designed for use in manufacturing, compounding, converting, or otherwise introducing a controlled substance into the body. Any equipment or accessories that are commonly used with a controlled substance, including, but not limited to, pipes, bongs, scales, plastic baggies, rolling papers, syringes, cutting agents, grinders, E-cigarettes, electronic smoking devices, or vapes (and their parts). As per the above video, tobacco and drug products also include any item whose purpose is to conceal or hide the above mentioned products such as vaping hoodies, vaping backpacks, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the topic of vaping, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Roccisano the Middle School Student Assistance Counselor. Thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,

Peggy Widgren
JTMS Principal



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO BOX 360
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360
www.nj.gov/health

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

On April 15, 2006, the "New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act" (Act), N.J.S.A. 26:30-55 et seq., took effect. The Act prohibits smoking in an indoor public place or workplace. The Act also prohibits smoking in any building and/or on the grounds of any public or non-public elementary or secondary school.

The Act and the Smoke-Free Air Rules at N.J.A.C. 8:6 require these establishments to direct a person smoking in violation of the Act to stop smoking. The rules further requires these establishments to remove from the premises any person who continues to smoke in violation of the Act after having been directed to stop smoking, and to enlist the assistance of local law enforcement or peace officers, if necessary, to assist in the removal.

Persons who violate the Act are subject to a complaint being filed against them and being summoned to appear in the municipal court of this jurisdiction. Persons found to be in violation or the Act are subject to fines and penalties, established by the Act, of \$250 for a first offense, \$500 for a second offense, and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.

Judith M Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Health