



MEDIA ADVISORY

Media Contact:
Ashley Cobert
(414) 266-3056
ACobert@chw.org

Interview opportunity: Children's Hospital of Wisconsin partners with state to investigate hospitalizations suspected to be caused by vaping

MILWAUKEE — Children's Hospital of Wisconsin reported eight cases of hospitalized teenagers with seriously damaged lungs to the Wisconsin Department Health Services in July.

The state is currently investigating the possible causes of these illnesses, but all patients reported vaping in the weeks and months prior to being hospitalized. While an exact cause is unknown, the number of patients in such a short time frame is concerning.

With the increase in use of e-cigarettes and vaping, parents and teens need to be aware of the potential danger. E-cigarette cartridges can contain toxic chemicals that have been shown to damage lungs. Because these products are still new, the long-term effects of use are not fully understood.

The symptoms that led to hospitalization include shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain, cough and weight loss. The severity of health condition has varied, with some patients needing assistance in order to breathe. Patients have shown improvement after treatment, however long-term effects are not known. It is believed prolonged or continued exposure to these chemicals could lead to more serious health issues like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, a permanent condition which makes lungs less effective at transporting oxygen and is permanent.

Interview Opportunity: Dr. Michael Gutzeit, chief medical officer at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, is available for a pool interview to stress the risks of vaping and to answer questions.

When: Thursday, July 25 at 2 p.m.

Where: Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Corporate Center, 999 N. 92nd St., Wauwatosa

Parking: *Media are asked to park in the circle drive at Children's Corporate Center and enter the Corporate Center lobby where a member of the Children's Hospital media relations team will greet them.*

Facebook Live: For families with questions, Dr. Louella Amos with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin will be answering questions during a Facebook Live event at noon on Friday, July 26.

More Information: The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has additional background and resources about vaping at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tobaccochanging/.

Media interested in speaking with Dr. Gutzeit should confirm with Ashley Cobert at acobert@chw.org or (414) 266-3056.

###