



To: Wisconsin media
From: American Lung Association in Wisconsin
Re: Children's Hospital report on kids' lung damage linked to e-cigarette use

Story here: <https://www.tmj4.com/news/local-news/childrens-hospital-eight-teens-hospitalized-with-lung-damage-possibly-due-to-vaping>

Statement from Megan Cordova, Executive Director, American Lung Association in Wisconsin

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, one of the nation's most widely-respected health care organizations, today released information of the hospitalization of eight teens for lung damage, which medical experts suspect is linked to e-cigarette use.

The American Lung Association has always held the position that e-cigarette use is NOT safe, especially by youth whose lungs are still developing. E-cigarettes contain chemicals, heavy metals and fine particulates. The candy and fruit-flavorings that so many youth find appealing also contain chemicals known to cause irreparable lung damage. These flavorings are designed to tempt kids and give the false impression that e-cigarettes are safe. Contrary to what the industry would have them believe, e-cigarettes are NOT SIMPLY HARMLESS WATER VAPOR.

Wisconsin had made enormous strides in reducing smoking rates but now faces a new generation of nicotine addiction among our youth. We call on lawmakers to act swiftly to enact laws to turn the tide on this growing epidemic – raising the legal purchase of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes to 21, adding e-cigarettes to the states smoke free air law and taxing e-cigarettes the same as regular combustible cigarettes.

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