

# **Update on Aerosolized Liquid Products (Vapour Products)**

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# Update on Aerosolized Liquid Products (Vapour Products)

- This report responds to the September 23, 2019 BOH request to report back on:
  - Health impacts of vapour products
  - Potential actions for government
- Vapour products function through the heating and conversion of liquids to produce an aerosol that can be inhaled. Inhalation of this aerosol is also called “vaping”. Aerosolized products are also known as e-cigarettes.

- The long term health impacts of using these products are not yet fully known.
- To date it is known that:
  - These products can expose users to multiple chemicals that are harmful to health.
  - Many of these products contain nicotine, an addictive substance, known to harm adolescent brain development.
  - There are associations with subsequent tobacco smoking among youth and young adults.
  - This has the potential to undermine public health gains in tobacco control made over the past several years.



- Youth (15 to 19 years) and young adults (20 to 24 years) have the highest rates of use of aerosolized liquid products. This compares to adults 25 years and older.
- Recent national surveys show an increase in youth use.
  - From 2017 to 2018, there was a greater than 70% increase in the rate of Canadian youth using these products.

# Product availability, advertising, & flavours

- Products are widely available in convenience stores, gas stations and other retail stores throughout Toronto.
- Large advertising campaigns are visible throughout Toronto including on billboards, in print, public transit, on social media platforms and at pop-up promotional events.
- Until January 1, 2020, advertising has been permitted at retail stores accessible to children and youth.
- Available in a wide variety of flavours; flavours have been cited by youth as one of the main reasons for initiating use.

- The Federal government amend the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act to:
  - Prohibit advertising and promotion of aerosolized liquid products where minors have access,
  - Prohibit the sale of flavours (except for tobacco flavour) in retail stores where minors have access, and
  - Limit available nicotine concentrations in aerosolized liquid products.
- The Government of Ontario amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA) to prohibit the sale of all flavours (except tobacco) at retail stores accessible to minors.



# Toronto Public Health also recommends

- That the BOH direct the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with City Legal Services and relevant City divisions, to report back on amending existing City of Toronto Bylaws that prohibit smoking to also prohibit the use of aerosolized liquid products.