

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM20.21	ACTION			Ward: 9
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Protecting Youth from Vapour Product Harms - by Councillor Alejandra Bravo, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Board of Health. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral*

Recommendations

Councillor Alejandra Bravo, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Medical Officer of Health and the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to consider opportunities to enhance coordinated enforcement, compliance, and education/outreach activities to prevent the illegal sale of vapour products to children and youth.
2. City Council request the Medical Officer of Health to include, as part of the forthcoming Our Health, Our City Strategy annual report, a review of existing and planned actions to reduce harms associated with cannabis, vaping, and smoking for youth, including outreach and education initiatives for and with schools.

Summary

In the [2023 Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey Report](#), 11.4 percent of Grade 7-12 students in the Greater Toronto Area reported having used a vapour product in the past year. This number has increased from 9.3 percent in 2015, despite a decrease in the usage of many other common drug types. According to Toronto Public Health, vapour products [have been shown](#) shown to contain toxic substances and can cause a range of health harms.

Local school representatives in our wards have expressed concerns about young people's access to vapour products at specialty vape stores and vapour product retailers, despite the prohibition on sale to those aged under 19. Preventing the harms of vapour product use is also identified as a goal in [Our Health, Our City: A Mental Health, Substance Use, Harm Reduction and Treatment Strategy for Toronto](#).

This motion requests Toronto Public Health and Municipal Licensing and Standards to look at strengthening practices and procedures to help protect youth from the harms of vapour products, including when a business is found to have contravened the law repeatedly, ensuring that license holders are aware of their obligations and the penalties for non-compliance, and improving education/outreach.

This direction will complement new and ongoing work within Toronto Public Health from which we are also requesting an update as part of the forthcoming Our Health, Our City annual report. This includes the updating of resources and activities for Toronto school boards to reduce the use of and harms associated with the use of vape, cannabis, and tobacco, school-based programs with public health nurses, advocacy for changes to provincial and federal policy, inspection activities as mandated by the Ontario Public Health Standards, and more.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM20.21

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-247823.pdf>)