

# SEVERE LUNG DISEASE AMONG PEOPLE WHO REPORTED VAPING

## What School Nurses Need to Know



### **Wisconsin has cases of people with severe lung disease who all reported recently vaping marijuana, THC products, and/or nicotine.**

- While we have cases in several age groups, most are teenagers and young adults.
- While the severity of lung disease has varied among patients, some have experienced severe impairment and required assistance to breathe.
- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services is investigating these cases and conducting interviews with patients to identify a possible cause.
- All patients reported vaping in the days and weeks prior to hospitalization. As of August 29, 2019, 89% of interviewed cases reported vaping THC products.
- For the latest number of cases and affected counties, [visit our Outbreaks webpage](#).



### **Talk to your students about the dangers of vaping.**

- E-cigarettes are more popular than conventional cigarettes among Wisconsin teens.
- Vaping products and e-cigarettes can contain toxic chemicals that can damage lungs.
- The [Tobacco is Changing](#) campaign offers parents and trusted adults tools for talking to kids about e-cigarettes and vaping.
- Parents, teachers, and health professionals can learn more about how to take action against youth vaping in our [public health advisory](#).



### **If a student has unexplained breathing issues, talk to their parents about this issue and encourage them to see a doctor.**

- We have encouraged doctors to report any cases to their local health department.
- If a student or one of their family members is struggling with nicotine addiction, there are FDA-approved medications to help them quit. Call 1-800-QUIT NOW (784-8669) for free help.

If you have questions, please contact us at  
[dhstracking@wi.gov](mailto:dhstracking@wi.gov).

