



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

December 20, 2024

Dear Colleague:

Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is asking health care providers to be alert for patients experiencing adverse health effects associated with vaping/e-cigarettes, particularly in young people. MDH has received several reports of individuals in central Maryland who recently experienced acute reactions after use of vape/e-cigarette devices. These acute reactions included loss of consciousness, agitation, nausea/vomiting, neurologic symptoms and altered mental status within a short time period after using vape products.

If you are treating patients who may be experiencing adverse health effects associated with vaping, you can contact the Maryland Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 for assistance. MDH also requests that you contact your local health department regarding these patients, and would be interested in the following information, if available:

- ❖ Clinical symptoms experienced
- ❖ Results of urine tox screen for substances, including cannabinoids
- ❖ Method of ingestion
- ❖ Where the product was obtained
- ❖ A picture of the product, if possible, and whether the product is still available to be collected for analysis

While a specific cause of these cases has not yet been determined, in general, cannabinoids (either natural or synthetic) can cause a wide spectrum of clinical effects which occur soon after inhalation and can last several hours to days:

- Agitation
- Slurred speech
- Sedation
- Tachycardia
- Nystagmus
- Nausea/vomiting

In cases of severe toxicity, patients may have seizures or hallucinations, bradycardia or tachycardia, and acute kidney injury or rhabdomyolysis.

MDH appreciates your assistance in this matter, and will continue to provide additional information as it develops.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clifford S. Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Clifford S. Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH
Director, Environmental Health Bureau