



LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Administrative Offices
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, Virginia 20148**

Dear LCPS Families,

As the Student Health Supervisor for Loudoun County Public Schools, I wanted to make you aware of a public health concern in our County and Commonwealth. The Virginia Department of Health's State Health Commissioner issued a letter to healthcare professionals on August 20 regarding "clusters of pulmonary illnesses linked to e-cigarette use...among adolescents and young adults."

The illness is characterized by "respiratory symptoms including cough, shortness of breath and fatigue." Symptoms often worsened, resulting in the hospitalization of the patient. The Centers for Disease Control have identified 193 cases in 22 states. Three of these cases have occurred in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Studies by the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) show that the likelihood of teenage e-cigarette use starts in middle school and increases through high school. In 8th grade, 9.5 percent of students nationwide used e-cigarettes. By 12th grade, that percentage jumps to 16.2 percent. Boys are twice as likely as girls to use e-cigarettes.

LCPS has provided a number of resources about e-cigarettes and vaping. These may be accessed at <https://www.lcps.org/Page/201538>. To learn more about this public health concern, please visit https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html

Parents with questions or concerns about vaping may contact the Office of Student Assistance Services at 571-252-1014 for additional information.

In good health,

Jeannie Kloman
Student Health Supervisor