

State health dept. warns about vaping

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Investigation of vaping associated with lung disease

After a 29-year-old-man from Bernalillo County was diagnosed with a vaping-associated lung condition and three additional cases were placed under investigation, the New Mexico Department of Health has called on health care providers to report possible vaping associated lung disease cases to the Epidemiology and Response Division.

The four cases now under investigation in New Mexico all include use of vape cartridges, possibly containing Tetra hydro cannabinol. Similar cases have been reported in at least 14 other states.

All the cases under investigation have included hospitalization with severe breathing problems after vaping. Symptoms included cough, shortness of breath and fatigue.

Cases have reported vaping of dabbing, which is vaping marijuana oils, extracts or concentrates, in the weeks and months prior to hospital admission.

The names and types of products used, are being investigated and could include several substances, possibly nicotine, THC, synthetic cannabinoids, or a combination of these.

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NMDOH, other states, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are continuing to investigate the possible causes of these illnesses.

“In light of this disease, we discourage vaping of any cartridges with THC,” NMDOH Cabinet Secretary Kathy Kunkel said. “People who have trouble breathing or experience chest pain after vaping - in the weeks or months prior to the development of these symptoms - should seek immediate medical attention.”

For more information: visit <https://nmvape.info/> to view a documentary on the subject, articles, resources and a viewing guide for educators and community groups.