

US health officials report 3rd vaping death, repeat warning

September 6 2019, by Mike Stobbe



In this Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018 file photo, a woman takes a puff from a cannabis vape pen in Los Angeles. On Friday, Sept. 6, 2019, U.S. health officials are again urging people to stop vaping until they figure out why some are coming down with serious breathing illnesses. (AP Photo/Richard Vogel)

U.S. health officials on Friday again urged people to stop vaping until

they figure out why some are coming down with serious breathing illnesses.

Officials said they had identified 450 possible cases, including at least three deaths, in 33 states. The count includes a newly reported death in Indiana.

No single vaping device, liquid or ingredient has been tied to all the illnesses, officials said. Many of the sickened—but not all—were people who said they had been had been vaping THC, the chemical that gives marijuana its high.

Health officials have only been counting certain lung illnesses in which the person had vaped within three months. Most are teens.

The illnesses have all been reported this year, and the number has been growing quickly in the last month as more and more states have begun investigations. A week ago, U.S. officials pegged the number at 215 possible cases in 25 states.

It's also unclear whether such illnesses were happening before this year.

"We're all wondering if this is new or just newly recognized," Dr. Dana Meaney-Delman of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told reporters Friday.

Also on Friday, the *New England Journal of Medicine* released a series of articles that give medical details about cases reported in Illinois, Wisconsin and Utah.

An article on 53 illnesses in Illinois and Wisconsin noted that nearly one-fifth of the cases were people who said they vaped nicotine and not anything that contained THC or CBD oil.

For that reason, doctors and health officials are continuing to suggest people stay away from all vaping products until the investigation establishes exactly what's at the root of the illnesses.

Symptoms have included shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain and vomiting. Doctors say the illnesses resemble an inhalation injury, with the body apparently reacting to a caustic substance that someone breathed in.

The previous deaths were reported in Illinois and Oregon . Indiana officials said the person who died there was an adult, but they didn't say when it happened or release other details.

© 2019 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: US health officials report 3rd vaping death, repeat warning (2019, September 6)
retrieved 8 April 2023 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-09-death-linked-vaping-states.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.