

November 22, 2017

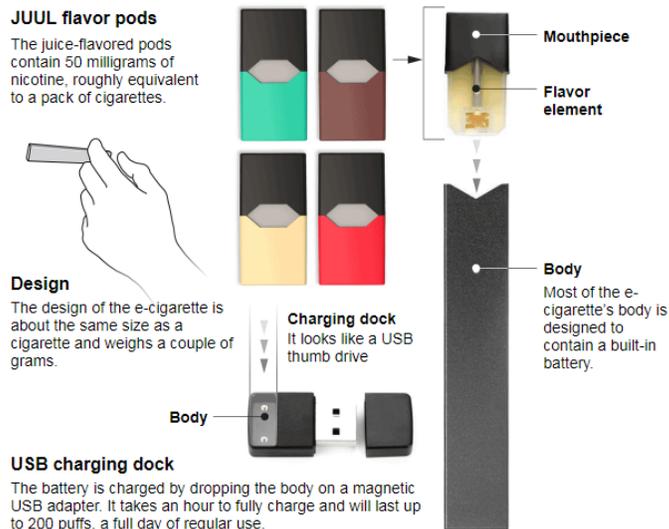
Dear Parent / Guardian:

On behalf of the Grand Island High School faculty, staff and our PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association), we are writing as a united team in addressing a very critical problem facing our school. We have recently seen a rise in incidents related to substance abuse and e-cigarettes. Moreover, the number of incidents addressed in the high school has tripled this year in comparison to our data from the same time last year. The New York State Department of Health reports that the use of “vaping” among high school students in New York State has doubled since 2014. In response, a New York State PTSA advocacy group was recently instrumental in passing two new bills. One bill bans e-cigarettes from school grounds and another adds them to the Clean Indoor Air Act. Governor Cuomo has signed both into law for the 2017-2018 school year, which means such devices are now not only against our Grand Island Code of Conduct, their use is outlawed on school grounds for students, as well as usage for all visitors.

I ask for your cooperation in working with our children to address this new epidemic. Parents are often unaware of the substances that can be smoked using e-cigarettes including nicotine, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine. Even when e-cigarettes are used without nicotine, other harmful chemicals are often found including benzene, lead, diacetyl, toluene, THC, and formaldehyde. A new type of e-cigarette called a Juul, often resembles a thumb drive or Sharpie Pen:

JUUL e-cigarettes

Some e-cigarette critics are calling the JUUL e-cigarette the “Apple of vaping” or the “iPhone of vaping.” With its relatively low entry price, sleek portable design, ease of use, and nicotine head rush it generates for users, JUULS are catching on with younger people.



E-Cigarette devices often come in many shapes and sizes and may look like any of the following:



Any student found to be seen using or in possession of any of these devices at school will be subject to a 3 day in-school suspension. Additional consequences may be given for repeated offenders or to those students who participate in extra-curricular clubs, activities, or athletics. Offenders are also violating New York State Law and can be subject to any penalty recommended by the police.

Attached you will find additional information provided by the New York State Department of Health Website to better inform your families on the dangers of e-cigarettes in adolescents. We encourage you to speak with your children about this matter, and to be vigilant in checking to ensure these items are not coming to and from school. Please feel free to contact our office(s) at 716-773-8820 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Lauria
High School Principal

Cynthia Sharpe
High School Nurse

Patricia Eichel
PTSA President

Get the Facts - E-cigarettes are Dangerous to Youth and Adults

There is a lot of confusing information out there about e-cigarettes and vaping.

Risk to youth

It's urgent we recognize the risks e-cigarettes pose to young people and reduce their exposure to e-cigarettes. We can help youth understand the risks and decide not to use e-cigarettes or traditional tobacco products.

It won't be easy.

Vaping among high school students in New York State doubled between 2014 and 2016, and far exceeds the rate of cigarette smoking. Like cigarettes, e-cigarettes are aggressively marketed to make them as alluring as possible with flavors such as mint chocolate, berry cobbler, milk and cookies, and melon candy.

About E-cigs

E-cigarettes are known by many different names, such as e-cigs, e-hookahs, mods, vape pens, vapes and tank systems. When someone uses an e-cigarette device, they are vaping.

E-cigarettes are electronic devices that deliver nicotine, flavorings and other ingredients to users through an inhaled aerosol. E-cigarettes are battery operated and contain a cartridge filled with e-cig liquid, gel or juice. The battery powers an atomizer that vaporizes the liquid so it can be inhaled.

The Science - what we know!

Scientists are still studying e-cigarettes, but here is what we know so far:

- E-cigarette liquid typically contains nicotine, and nicotine:
 - is highly addictive;¹
 - is harmful to adolescent and young adult developing brains; ¹
 - can prime young brains for addiction to other drugs, such as cocaine and methamphetamine; ¹ and
 - can lead to lower impulse control, mood disorders and disrupts attention and learning. ¹
- E-Cigarette liquid with or without nicotine is dangerous because the emission from an e-cigarette can contain:
 - fine and ultrafine toxic particles, which can increase the risk of heart disease, lung cancer and asthma attacks, and interfere with the growth and work of the lungs; ¹

- heavy metals such as lead, tin and nickel;¹
- chemicals used for flavoring such as diacetyl that can cause a serious lung disease commonly known as "popcorn lung";¹ and
- volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which can cause long-term health effects including cancer.¹
- Many of the chemicals found in cigarette smoke are found in the aerosol or emission, including:
 - Formaldehyde, which is also found in embalming fluid;^{1,2}
 - Cadmium, a chemical found in batteries;^{1,3}
 - Benzene, found in gasoline;^{1,4} and
 - Toluene, an industrial solvent.^{1,5}

Studies show that youth who vape are more likely to smoke cigarettes than those who don't vape.¹

For more information about e-cigarettes and vaping, visit [Know the Risks – E-cigarettes & Young People](#).

References:

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults. A Report of the Surgeon General](#). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2016.
2. National Cancer Institute. [Formaldehyde and Cancer Risk](#). (last reviewed 2011 June 10)
3. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. [Cadmium - Overview](#).
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Benzene – Facts About Benzene](#). (last reviewed 2013 Feb 14)
5. Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry. [Toxic Substances Portal – Toluene](#). (last reviewed 2015 Jan 21)