



West Virginia Poison Center Press Release

West Virginia University-Charleston Division

Charleston, WV

For Immediate Release

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The Growing Popularity of E-Cigarettes

The West Virginia Poison Center Addresses a Vulnerable Population

CHARLESTON, WV – The electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) is a battery operated cigarette-shaped device that delivers nicotine into the lung when “smoked”. The source of the nicotine is a highly concentrated flavored or unflavored nicotine liquid (e-liquid). The use of this device is growing in popularity throughout the United States, even with the teen population. Carissa McBurney, the Community Outreach Coordinator for the West Virginia Poison Center, states that she has seen an increase in teenagers’ knowledge of e-cigarettes and e-liquid during her travels throughout the state this past year. “Several teens have even openly admitted to trying e-cigarettes before,” she said. Therefore, the West Virginia Poison Center urges West Virginians, especially parents, to discuss e-cigarettes and e-liquid with their teens and children.

The West Virginia Poison Center encourages parents to consider the following risks these devices pose to their children:

- 1) Use of these devices can lead to nicotine addiction. In the absence of an e-cigarette (which are expensive to purchase and operate), your teen may turn to traditional cigarettes to obtain the nicotine they crave. Use of cigarettes exposes your child to an increased risk of lung cancer and other diseases in addition to the poisons they are exposed to with each puff they take: acetone, ammonia, arsenic, butane, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, lead and tar, to name a few.
- 2) The liquid nicotine is potentially toxic if ingested or absorbed through the skin. Having these devices in a home poses a risk to any younger siblings who might find the flavored liquid and think it is candy. Inadvertent misuse by your teenager can place them at risk for poisoning as well.

If you have concerns about e-cigarette or e-liquid use, or think someone has been poisoned by e-cigarettes or e-liquid, call the West Virginia Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.

About the West Virginia Poison Center:

The West Virginia Poison Center provides comprehensive emergency poison information, prevention and educational resources to West Virginians 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The WVPC is staffed by nurses, pharmacists and physicians with special training in treatment of poisonings. Located in Charleston, WV, the WVPC is a part of the West Virginia University-Charleston Division. Toll-free:1-800-222-1222. Website:www.wvpoisoncenter.org.

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