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MEDIA RELEASE

Information **Advisory** **Warning** **Update**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alyse Nichols, MPH, CHES
SPEAK Coalition Coordinator
(810) 987-5300 x1510
anichols@stclaircounty.org

SPEAK Presents: St. Clair County Virtual Vaping Summit

On September 23, 2020, the St. Clair County Substance Prevention through Early Action and Knowledge (SPEAK) Coalition will be hosting a Virtual Vaping Summit. The event will feature a panel of local experts and will be live streamed on the SPEAK Facebook page (@SCCSPEAK) from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. The intent of the Summit is to provide information regarding youth vaping in our community and explore ways to prevent use. Viewers will have the ability to direct questions to the panel during the live broadcast.

In 2017/2018, the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) survey results reported that 10% of St. Clair County 7th graders used vaping products while 38% of 11th graders acknowledged regular use. Vaping is unhealthy for kids, teens, and young adults as most products contain high amounts of addictive nicotine and other harmful substances. Use can be harmful to brain development and contribute to younger users being more at risk in becoming future cigarette smokers.

Addressing the youth vaping crisis is one of the primary goals of the coalition. Other focus areas include underage drinking, youth marijuana use, and adult opioid use which align with the Coalition's mission of "*Striving for a healthier community by working together to prevent youth substance abuse.*"

For more information or to submit questions before the Summit, call Alyse Nichols, SPEAK Coalition Coordinator at (810) 987-5300 x1510. Follow us on Facebook @SCCSPEAK. Grant funding provided by MDHHS and Region 10 PIHP.

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