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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

St. Clair County Health Department

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TO: St. Clair County Providers,
Hospital ICPs, Emergency
Departments, ED Physicians, Walk-in
Clinics, LTC Facilities, Pulmonologists

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VAPING ASSOCIATED PULMONARY ILLNESS

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) along with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and local health departments are investigating severe pulmonary disease among people who reported “vaping” or “dabbing” (i.e., use of e-cigarette devices to aerosolize substances for inhalation). Cases of severe lung illness associated with e-cigarette product use were reported by 25 states, currently there are 215 possible cases. Michigan has six cases under investigation as of August 29th.

Severe Pulmonary Disease Associated with E-cigarette Use Outbreak Case Definition (CDC):

Confirmed

- Using an e-cigarette (“vaping”) or dabbing* in 90 days prior to symptom onset
AND
- Pulmonary infiltrate, such as opacities on plain film chest radiograph or ground-glass opacities on chest CT
AND
- Absence of pulmonary infection on initial work-up: Minimum criteria include negative respiratory viral panel, influenza PCR or rapid test if local epidemiology supports testing. All other clinically indicated respiratory ID testing (e.g., urine Antigen for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Legionella*, sputum culture if productive cough, bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) culture if done, blood culture, HIV-related opportunistic respiratory infections if appropriate) must be negative
AND
- No evidence in medical record of alternative plausible diagnoses (e.g., cardiac, rheumatologic or neoplastic process).

Probable

- Using an e-cigarette (“vaping”) or dabbing* in 90 days prior to symptom onset
AND
- Pulmonary infiltrate, such as opacities on plain film chest radiograph or ground-glass opacities on chest CT
AND
- Infection identified via culture or PCR, but clinical team caring for the patient believes this is not the sole cause of the underlying respiratory disease process **OR** Minimum criteria to rule out pulmonary infection not met (testing not performed) and clinical team believes this is not the sole cause of the underlying respiratory disease process
AND
- No evidence in medical record of alternative plausible diagnoses (e.g., cardiac, rheumatologic or neoplastic process).

Call SCCHD with questions or to report probable cases of unexplained vaping associated pulmonary illness (810) 987-5300 during regular business hours. Refer to the “After Hours Emergency Contact List” or www.scchealth.co for after-hours contact.