



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## Public Health Advisory Council

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April 13, 2015

David Madore, Chair  
Clark County Board of Health  
P. O. Box 5000  
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000

Dear Councilor Madore:

We are writing to express our support for the ordinance Clark County Public Health is bringing to the Board of Health on April 22 that would revise the existing county code to require that inhalant delivery systems be subject to the Smoking in Indoor Public Places (SIPP) law. We understand that the proposed ordinance does not ban inhalant delivery devices but rather makes them subject to the same indoor air regulations as tobacco products.

As you know, inhalant delivery systems, which include electronic cigarettes (commonly known as e-cigarettes) and vaping devices, are battery-operated devices designed for use in the same manner as conventional cigarettes. There are over 400 brands of these devices, the liquid contained in the cartridge comes in over 7,000 flavors, and they are compatible with THC (the main active ingredient in marijuana) and virtually any other psychoactive drug.

Although manufacturers have contended the vapor these products produce is safe, these claims are unproven, and emerging evidence reveals that the vapor can contain harmful and carcinogenic substances. For example, a recent study at Portland State University, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, revealed that the level of formaldehyde, a known carcinogen, in e-cigarettes' "vapor" was several times higher than in smoke from traditional cigarettes. In addition to formaldehyde, studies have found that the vapor these devices emit can contain acetaldehyde, lead, nickel and chromium. At its February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Public Health Advisory Council concluded that these devices should be subject to the same law, the Smoking in Indoor Public Places (SIPP) law, which protects people from the hazards of secondhand smoke.

Pending legislation at the state, while welcome in placing additional restrictions on these devices to protect minors, does not require inhalant delivery systems to be subject to the SIPP law. Fortunately, however, if passed, this legislation would not preempt local Boards of Health from imposing additional restrictions on these devices. Based on the foregoing considerations, among others, the Public Health Advisory Council recommends that the Board of Health adopt an ordinance in Clark County that would make inhalant delivery systems subject to the SIPP law.

Sincerely,



Trevor Evers  
Chair, Clark County Public Health Advisory Council

