



Scott County Board of Health

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Position Statement on Electronic Cigarettes and Vapor Products

The Scott County Board of Health supports expanding state and local smoke-free air regulations and tobacco- and nicotine-free policies to include electronic cigarettes and other vapor products.

Electronic cigarettes, commonly called vapes, are electronic devices that heat a liquid to create an aerosol that is inhaled. Most contain nicotine, which is highly addictive. The aerosol can also contain other chemicals and substances that may be harmful when inhaled. While research into the short- and long-term health effects of these products continues, e-cigarettes are not risk-free.

The Board of Health recognizes that:

- **Nicotine addiction is a public health concern.** Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, and young people are particularly vulnerable to nicotine addiction while their brains are still developing.
- **Young people should be protected from nicotine use.** Preventing youth from starting tobacco or nicotine use is an important part of protecting lifelong health. Flavors, product design, and the ability to use these products discreetly can make vaping appealing and accessible to young people.
- **Vaping is not harmless.** E-cigarette aerosol can contain nicotine, chemicals, and other substances that can be harmful to the lungs and other parts of the body. Research continues to better understand the long-term health effects of these products.
- **Smoke-free and tobacco-free environments support healthy communities.** People should be able to work, learn, and participate in public spaces without being exposed to tobacco or nicotine products. Clear, consistent policies help establish environments where tobacco and nicotine use is not the norm.
- **Prevention and cessation should go together.** Policies that limit tobacco and nicotine use should be accompanied by education, prevention, and access to evidence-based cessation services for people who want to quit.

The Scott County Board of Health believes that protecting public health includes reducing exposure to harmful substances, preventing nicotine addiction, and creating environments that support healthy choices. Including electronic cigarettes and other vapor products in smoke-free and tobacco- and nicotine-free policies is a practical way to support these goals.

The Scott County Board of Health supports inclusion of electronic cigarettes and other vapor products in state and local smoke-free air regulations and tobacco- and nicotine-free policies. The Board of Health also supports continued efforts to prevent youth nicotine use and to make cessation resources available to individuals who use tobacco or nicotine products.

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