



## Public Health



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### Press Release

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### **Outbreak of Severe Lung Disease in Wisconsin and the United States**

The outbreak of severe lung disease is associated with the use of electronic cigarettes. The Polk County Health Department is reminding everyone of the importance of not vaping or using electronic cigarettes, also called e-cigarettes. If you are using one of these products it is important you stop.

#### **In the United States:**

As of September 6, 2019 there have been over 450 possible cases of lung illness associated with e-cigarette products. There have been 5 confirmed deaths, with the closest being reported in Minnesota.

#### **In Wisconsin:**

As of September 5, 2019, Wisconsin Department of Health Services was aware of 34 cases, with 12 patients whose cases need further investigation. These cases have been reported in multiple counties throughout Wisconsin. Most of the affected individuals have been adolescents and young adults, but older adults have been affected too. "It is important that not using e-cigarettes is discussed with youth and anyone that is currently using or considering use", said Brian Kaczmariski, Polk County Health Officer.

#### ***Symptoms could possibly include:***

- cough, shortness of breath, or chest pain
- nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- fatigue, fever, or weight loss

***If you are experience any of these symptoms please see a health care provider.*** The majority of patients have went on to develop severe respiratory illnesses requiring hospitalization, and in some cases, had to be put on ventilators in order to breathe.

For additional information: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm>