



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
ENVIRONMENT, AND VITAL STATISTICS**

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Montgomery Township Health Department (MTHD)

E-cigarette Fact Sheet

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Current Situation:

- In New Jersey, under the Indoor Clean Air Act, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are treated like tobacco. But under the NJ Tax & Licensing requirement, e-cigarettes are not taxed and licensed like tobacco. The State of NJ said municipalities have the permission to pass ordinances to license places that sell e-cigarettes.
- In New Jersey, as of 2017, 12.1% of all high school students use e-cigarettes, compared to 8.2% of all high school students who use tobacco (Tobacco Free, 2017)
- People who sell these products are looking for towns who are 'easy' when it comes to following the rules, licensing, and regulation of sales. There are alternative options, such as developing smoke-free outdoor diners.
- Do we (Montgomery Twp.) want to be an easy or a hard town to sell e-cigarettes in?
- Should we protect our town's businesses or children?
- Our June 2017 Town hall Forum on Youth Nicotine Addiction showed that Montgomery Township residents support raising the age of sale of tobacco and nicotine products to 21 and now it has become statewide. Residents also overwhelmingly support licensing retail establishments that sell e-cigarettes.

Proposed Policy:

To license retail establishments that sell e-cigarettes

Goal of the policy:

To prevent underage children from being exposed to or getting access to electronic cigarettes in public places, and to attempt to improve the environmental health of the community by limiting e-cigarette usage.

Why this Matters to You:

Over the past few years, even though the number of cigarette usage has been decreasing, the number of e-cigarettes has been increasing. According to the US Surgeon General's report, e-cigarette use among youth and young adults is now a major public health concern. E-cigarette use has increased by an astounding 900% among high school students from 2011-2015. Most e-cigarettes also contain high doses of nicotine, which can cause addiction and harm the developing adolescent brain and along with other tobacco products can be detrimental to one's health:

- E-cigarette aerosol is not harmless. Studies have found chemicals and toxins present in some e-cigarettes, including formaldehyde, acrolein, volatile organic compounds like toluene, tobacco-specific nitrosamines, and metals like nickel and lead (US Surgeon General, 2016)
- The main ingredient of the products is nicotine. As young people consume more nicotine, there is a higher risk of suffering from dependency and addiction (Hagopian et al, 2015). Consumption of nicotine negatively impacts one's body such as changes in blood pressure and heart/respiratory rates, eye problems, mental issues, and body aches (American Industrial Hygiene Association, 2014).
- Affected people will face a risk of being exposed to aerosols, heavy metals, organic compounds that may have associations with respiratory conditions, and toxicants; some of which are carcinogens (US Surgeon General, 2016).
- As individuals pass by people using e-cigarettes, the passersby are inhaling harmful chemicals such as aerosols, nicotine, and other toxicants, which is a negative public health impact (Allegheny County, 2016).
- Marketing wise, e-cigarettes are marketed as 'cooler' and safer than the regular cigarettes, and they are also less expensive than regular cigarettes, so people, especially young people, tend to buy more e-cigarettes than other tobacco or nicotine products (Hagopian et al, 2015).
- Perceived risk of using e-cigarettes is underestimated by township residents; Parents and children are not aware of the dangers that e-cigarettes pose such as nicotine addiction, exposure to harmful chemicals, injuries and burns associated with exploding vaping devices.

References:

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Also serving the Boroughs of

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