Letter to the Editor Template

Teens Who Vape Have Increased COVID-19 Risk

Drafted August 11, 2020

**Teens Who Vape Have Higher COVID-19 Risk**

Dear Editor,

START BY SHARING A FEW REASONS YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD AVOID E-CIGARETTES (**PROVIDE EXAMPLES – FOUND UNDER “HEALTH RISKS” AT** [**https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tobaccoischanging/know-products.htm**](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tobaccoischanging/know-products.htm)). LET READERS KNOW THERE’S NOW ONE MORE REASON FOR TEENS TO AVOID THEM – USING E-CIGARETTES CAN INCREASE THEIR RISK OF CONTRACTING COVID-19.

SHARE THE FINDINGS OF THE NEW STUDY OUT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF STANFORD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE – THAT **TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS WHO VAPE ARE FIVE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BECOME INFECTED WITH COVID-19 COMPARED WITH THOSE WHO DID NOT USE E-CIGARETTES. THOSE WHO BOTH VAPED AND SMOKE CONVENTIONAL CIGARETTES WERE NEARLY SEVEN TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BECOME INFECTED.**

PROMOTE RESOURCES TO HELP YOUTH QUIT E-CIGARETTES AND ASSIST PARENTS IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE PRODUCTS THAT CAN TEMPT KIDS. SHARE THAT ANYONE, INCLUDING TEENS, CAN GET HELP TO QUIT TOBACCO PRODUCTS BY CALLING 1-800-QUIT NOW (784-8669) OR BY TEXTING “READY” TO 200-400. PARENTS CAN ALSO LEARN MORE ABOUT CANDY-FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS, INCLUDING E-CIGARETTES THAT ATTRACT YOUNG USERS, BY VISITING TOBACCOISCHANGING.COM.

FINALLY, LET PARENTS KNOW HOW THEY CAN HELP LOCALLY BY WORKING WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION. GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF THE WORK YOU’RE DOING IN (**COUNTY/COMMUNITY NAME**) TO ADDRESS TOBACCO USE AND YOUTH E-CIGARETTE USE. SHARE HOW THEY CAN GET IN CONTACT WITH YOU BY INCLUDING YOUR ORGANIZATION’s **WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, ETC.**