

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

BLAST FAX 2019-18

TO: All Facilities

FROM: Barbara Cass, R.N., Branch Chief *BSC*
Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch
410 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut, 06134

DATE: September 27, 2019

SUBJECT: List of Reportable Diseases

Please see the attached.



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September 27, 2019

Re: Change to the List of Reportable Diseases, Emergency Illnesses and Health Conditions

Dear Colleagues:

To date, the Department of Public Health (DPH) has received reports of 18 Connecticut residents with lung injury potentially related to vaping in what appears to be a growing epidemic both nationally and in our state. To better understand the magnitude of this disease so that informed efforts may be undertaken to address it, DPH is participating in an investigation of the disease in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In an effort to further the objectives of this investigation, as Commissioner of DPH, I hereby amend the List of Reportable Diseases, Emergency Illnesses and Health Conditions by adding "unexplained vaping-related lung injuries" to such list, effective September 27, 2019. This action is taken pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 19a- 2a and Section 19a-36-A7 of the Public Health Code.

Cases of unexplained vaping-related lung injury shall be reported immediately to DPH and to the local department of health in the town of residence of the case-patient by telephone on the day of recognition or strong suspicion of the disease. A report form provided by DPH shall be used to collect information on hospitalized and fatal case-patients. DPH will share these reports with the local health department in the town of residence of the case-patients.

I thank you in advance for your continued partnership in addressing the public health of the State of Connecticut. If you have questions about the reporting of "unexplained vaping-related lung injuries," please contact the DPH Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit at 860-509-8251.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell".

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell
Commissioner



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