



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

NACCHO Supports FDA Restrictions on the Sale of e-Cigarette Products, Ban on Menthol

Washington, DC, November 15, 2018 — The [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO), representing the nation’s nearly 3,000 local health departments, applauds the Food and Drug Administration’s formal announcement of a crackdown on the sale of most flavored e-cigarettes and a proposed ban on menthol flavors in traditional cigarettes.

“This is welcome news to communities across the country. Local health departments are on the front lines of addressing smoking cessation and youth deterrence and they are leaders in their communities on addressing smoke-free regulations and adopting them to the rise in vaping,” said Lori Freeman, NACCHO Chief Executive Officer.

“Removing menthol cigarettes from the market is a particularly important step to help people quit and keep kids from becoming smokers. This move is long overdue and we look forward to working with the FDA to implement these new public health policies as quickly as possible.”

Many local health departments offer smoking cessation programs in their communities, with some targeting youth smoking, such as the [Multnomah County Health Department’s Tobacco Control and Prevention initiative](#).

Prevention of chronic disease, especially those resulting from smoking, is a core tenet of public health. Along with the FDA restrictions on e-cigarettes, local health departments can further protect youth by educating community members on the dangers of vaping. NACCHO provides technical assistance and resources related to tobacco prevention and control policies to local health departments. Today’s decision by the FDA strengthens local public health departments’ mandate to protect and maintain the health of their communities.

Moreover, NACCHO endorses these local tobacco and vaping control regulations:

- More restrictive tobacco and vaping control ordinances and regulations, including those governing smoke-free or vape-free indoor air;
- Increasing tobacco product taxes;
- Regulating the sales and retail environments to reduce use of tobacco and vaping products through product placement and elimination of advertising; and
- Increasing the minimum age for sale.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared the use of e-cigarettes [unsafe for kids, teens and young adults](#). It notes most e-cigarettes contain nicotine and may contain other harmful substances. Importantly, young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to start smoking cigarettes in the future, and to eventually increase their use of both products, according to several recent studies. Similarly, menthol cigarettes have been shown to be more attractive to young people, easier to smoke, and harder to quit. They also have a disproportionate impact on communities of color, who have been specifically targeted by tobacco manufacturers.

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About NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit www.naccho.org.